

Charles Veal Jr. Complete Album Credits & Popular Songs

Handout for Diamond Family Legacy Presentation

Major Album Collaborations (1972-2019)

Roles: Violin, Viola, Cello, Conductor, Arranger, Composer

1970s - Foundation Years

Earth, Wind & Fire - "Spirit" (1976)

- **Charles's Role:** String arrangements
- **Popular Song:** "Getaway" / "Saturday Love"

Lionel Richie (1982)

- **Charles's Role:** Violin
- **Popular Song:** "Truly" / "You Are"

"Illumination" (1974)

- **Charles's Role:** Violin
- **Highly Rated:** 3.51/5 (1,004+ ratings)

Phyllis Hyman (1977)

- **Charles's Role:** Conductor
- **Popular Song:** "Betcha By Golly Wow"

1980s - R&B Mastery

Aretha Franklin - "Aretha" (1986)

- **Charles's Role:** Strings
- **Popular Song:** "I Knew You Were Waiting (For Me)" (with George Michael)

Lionel Richie (1982)

- **Charles's Role:** Violin
- **Popular Song:** "All Night Long"

His Solo Albums:

- **"Only The Best" (1980)** - Capitol Records
- **"Believe It" (1981)** - Capitol Records

1990s - Genre Expansion

OutKast - "Aquemini" (1998)

- **Charles's Role:** Violin
- **Popular Song:** "Rosa Parks" / "Da Art of Storytelling"

"Sons of Soul" (1993)

- **Charles's Role:** Violin
- **Popular Song:** Various R&B tracks

2000s - Contemporary Collaborations

Mýa - "Fear of Flying" (2000)

- **Charles's Role:** Strings/Arrangements
- **Popular Song:** "Case of the Ex"

"The Heat" (2000)

- **Charles's Role:** Arrangements
- **Popular Song:** Various contemporary R&B

"Full Moon" (2002)

- **Charles's Role:** Strings
- **Popular Song:** "Work It Out"

Film & TV Work

"Music of the Heart" (1999)

- **Charles's Role:** Violin/Orchestration
- **Notable:** Meryl Streep film about music education

Jazz Collaborations

"Jazzical" (1982)

- **Charles's Role:** Violin
- **Genre:** Jazz fusion

Various Chick Corea Projects

- "Secret Agent" and other albums
- **Charles's Role:** Violin/Strings

Later Career (2000s-2010s)

"Stay Tuned" (2011)

- **Charles's Role:** Violin
- **Final major collaboration

"Bill & Ted's" (2014)

- **Charles's Role:** Violin
 - **Film soundtrack work
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Career Highlights by Decade

1970s: Foundation

- Worked with Earth, Wind & Fire
- Established as premier string arranger
- Multiple conductor roles

1980s: Peak Fame

- Aretha Franklin collaborations
- Lionel Richie's biggest hits
- Solo album success on Capitol Records

1990s: Hip-Hop Pioneer

- OutKast's "Aquemini"
- Bridged classical and hip-hop

2000s: Contemporary Master

- Mýa and other R&B stars
- Film scoring work
- Continued genre-crossing

Charles Veal Jr.'s Instruments & Roles:

- **Violin** (primary)
- **Viola**
- **Cello**
- **Conductor**
- **String Arranger**
- **Composer**
- **Horn Arrangements**
- **Songwriter** (select tracks)

Complete Database Reference:

114+ Album Credits: <https://rateyourmusic.com/artist/charles-veal/credits/>

Legacy Statement:

"Charles Veal Jr. represents the ultimate cultural bridge-builder - a classically trained violinist who brought sophistication to funk, soul, R&B, hip-hop, and film scores across five decades. His work spans from Earth, Wind & Fire's 1970s funk to OutKast's 1990s hip-hop, proving that musical excellence transcends all boundaries."

Presented by: Dr. Tricia Diamond

Event: "Our People, Our Pages" - Le Musée de f.p.c.

Date: September 17, 2025