



Dennis Yost

Spooky - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1f3JhktiQ5E>

Stormy - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eCtswx53IZg>

Sunny - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MJ1eRP4HHRg>

Early Years^[edit]

Dennis Yost was born on July 20, 1943 in [Detroit](#). He and his family moved to [Jacksonville](#) at the age of 7. There, he began playing drums. While a student at Andrew Jackson High School, he joined a local band called **The Echoes**, in which he was also a singer.^[3]

Classics IV^[edit]

In 1965, after the Echoes broke up, Yost joined **Leroy and the Monarchs**, a copy band founded by Walter Eaton. James "J.R." Cobb also came on board on guitar along with Joe Wilson on keyboards. The band would soon change its name to **The Classics**. Yost took over vocals duties due to the strength and quality of his voice. When singing he would play his drums standing up. ^[4]

The group was discovered performing at the Purple Porpoise in [Daytona Beach](#) by talent manager Alan Diggs, who was affiliated with the Lowery organization in Atlanta. Songwriter [Buddy Buie](#) was brought aboard as the group's co-manager and producer. The pair encouraged the band to relocate to [Atlanta](#), where the band landed a deal with [Capitol Records](#) with the help of producer [Bill Lowery](#).

The group released its debut single, "Pollyanna", written by Lowery songwriter [Joe South](#). Despite being a regional hit, the group received complaints from a New York-based group with the same name, prompting them to add the "IV" to the name since there were four members at that time.^[5]

In 1967, The group landed a deal with [Imperial Records](#). Throughout the next few years, the group released four albums and a slew of Top 40 hits, including "[Spooky](#)", "[Stormy](#)" and "[Traces](#)".

By 1970, as Yost was the remaining original member in the group, it changed its name again to **Dennis Yost and the Classics IV**. After Imperial was absorbed into [United Artists Records](#), the group signed with [MGM South](#). The band's subsequent releases were less successful, despite their final Top 40 hit "[What Am I Crying For](#)", which peaked at No. 39 in 1972. By this time, the partnership between Cochran and Buie ended.^[4]

Later years^[edit]

In 1975, Yost disbanded the group and returned to Florida to pursue fishing and the flooring business. A couple of years later, Yost returned to performing under the Holiday Inn circuit, this time solely under his own name or **The Classic One**. By this time, he lost the rights to the Classics IV name.^[4]

In 1981, Yost released *Going Through the Motions* on Robox Records. Its single with the same name was a minor hit, peaking at No. 46 on the Adult Contemporary chart.

In 1993, Yost moved to [Nashville](#) and ventured into songwriting and producing aside from his performing duties. In the same year, Classics IV was inducted into the [Georgia Music Hall of Fame](#).^[1]

In 2001, Yost underwent successful throat surgery for a condition that had severely impaired his singing voice, bringing him back to touring under the Classics IV name. A few years prior, he gained the rights to the Classics IV name with the help of former [Sha Na Na](#) vocalist [Jon "Bowser" Bauman](#) through the group [Truth in Music Advertising](#).^[6]

Accident and death^[edit]

On July 11, 2006, Yost fell down a flight of stairs and suffered serious brain trauma. To assist Yost and his wife with their medical bills, a benefit concert was held on March 25, 2007, at *Rhino's Live* in [Cincinnati](#). The benefit was hosted by Jon Bauman. Many musical entertainers and some surprise guests from the 1950s through the 1970s performed some of their biggest chart-topping hits in tribute to Yost. Among the artists performing that day were [Denny Laine](#) of [the Moody Blues](#) and [Wings](#), [Chuck Negron](#) of [Three Dog Night](#), [Ian Mitchell](#) of [Bay City Rollers](#), [Pat Upton](#) of [Spiral Starecase](#), [Dave Somerville](#), [the Skyliners](#), [Buzz Cason](#), [Carl Dobkins Jr.](#), [Mark Volman](#) of [the Turtles](#), and [The Robby Campbell Trio](#). The concert did not significantly benefit Yost or his wife financially as hoped; expenses far exceeded the money raised, leaving the event in the red. However, it was a huge emotional boost for Yost to visit with so many old friends.^{[7][2]}

On December 7, 2008, coinciding with the 40th anniversary of the entrance of "[Stormy](#)" into the Hot 100's Top 10, Yost died from [respiratory failure](#) at the age of 65. He is survived by his wife Linda Vecchio and five children.^[6]

Discography^[edit]

See also: *Classics IV*

Albums^[edit]

Year	Album
1980	<i>Stormy</i>
1981	<i>Going Through the Motions</i>
1983	<i>Traces of the Past</i>

Singles[\[edit\]](#)

Year	Title	Chart positions
		US AC ^[8]
1980	"Lover in My Mind"	-
1981	"Going Through the Motions"	46