



Title: [Lets Stay Together: The Broadcast Archives](#)

Artist: [Al Green](#)

Director: Stan Lathan

Label: [XXL Media](#)

Format: DVD (region 0; 4.3, full frame (1.33:1); Dolby Digital, 60 min.)

Release date: January 15, 2013

To my surprise, The Broadcast Archives' *Al Green – Let's Stay Together* comes from the PBS program *SOUL!* which aired in the late '60s to early '70s. Hosted by Ellis Haizlip, this episode begins with Haizlip interviewing Al Green, who surprises everyone by telling the audience that he is only 25-years-old. He also speaks about growing up singing with his brothers in a gospel group, and throughout his performance the influence gospel music had on his life is evident; an influence that would continue in the years to come. After the interview Al begins his performance, pulling songs from the albums *Al Green Gets Next to You*, *Let's Stay Together*, *I'm Still in Love With You*, and *Call Me*.

The great thing about Green's performance is the way he talks to the audience throughout, while breaking into falsetto riffs as an interlude during and between songs. For instance, on "Look What You've Done for Me," he takes time to talk about a woman who gives him the "running" in his feet and "clapping" in his hands. Green is testifying at this point, breaking into brief holy ghost struts, grasping at the heavens for something or someone. His performances are passionate and electrifying—Green is a man that knows how to perform and, more importantly, sing. When the musical introduction to "How Can You Mend a Broken Heart" begins, the lights dim, the band elegantly elevates, and the crowd lets out subtle cheers and shouts of approval. Midway through the song he asks, "Is there somebody in New York who can mend a broken heart?" I was so lost in the performance (it's my personal favorite) that I actually looked around my empty living room a little disappointed that I was the only one who could testify at that moment.

This is a genuine performance by Al Green as noted by the audience's reaction to him as well as my own. As I played back "Still in Love With You" I was amazed by the rawness of his performance. His voice is a little dry on "You Ought to Be With Me" as he tries to hit high notes and he recognizes this struggle, letting the audience know that it came from a cold he received while in my hometown of Chicago.

Here's the trailer:

My only issue with this DVD is that it does not document the source (the television show *SOUL!*) or year of this performance; nor does it offer credits to the director Stan Lathan, the producers, or the band on the DVD cover. I still recommend it for anyone who has a copy of this performance on bootleg and would like to view it with better sound and video quality.

The next time you see me at a karaoke bar, just know I will be trying my damndest to mimic Al Green's performances and adlibs while singing "Can't Get Next to You."

Reviewed by Landon Jones

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