

<https://youtu.be/wEBlaMOMKV4>



Sam
Cooke
helped to

shape soul music, from the smooth love song "You Send Me" to groovier R&B of "Wonderful World" to good-time dance tunes like "Twistin' The Night Away." Rooted in gospel traditions, Cooke possessed a soaring voice that could go places other singers couldn't -- just listen to his masterpiece, the Civil Rights anthem "A Change Is Gonna Come." Looking back on the singer's life -- which came to a sudden end when he was just 33 years old -- it's hard not to see the stark dichotomy between his religious upbringing, and his dedication to the civil rights movement with the multiple tragedies in which he was embroiled throughout his final years.