



When it comes to the music industry, Mint Condition is a rarity.

For most musical acts, their careers span just a few fleeting years with one or two, maybe three or four – at best – albums to their credit. But Mint Condition has been going strong for more than 20 years and earlier this month the group released its eighth studio album, "Music @ the Speed of Life." Add the fact that Mint Condition is a *band* with all of its members trained musicians, and it makes the group even more of a rarity – especially in R&B/soul music. And there are certainly very few – if any – acts that can say its eighth release in a 20-plus year career debuted number one on iTunes.

Images courtesy of Mint Condition

"It's like the African proverb says, 'If you want to go fast, go alone, if you want to go far, go together,'" said keyboardist Lawrence Waddell, who prefers to go by Lawrence El. "We just kind of jelled. It's the love we have of music and love for one another that keeps us together."

And it is the music that has endeared Mint to a legion of faithful fans worldwide. The fan support was no more evident than on the album's release date, when "Music" soared to number one on the iTunes R&B album chart. iTunes is the world's leading online music outlet.

Mint bassist Rick Kinchen said with this latest release, "Music" was a completely collaborative effort among the group. "This was a record where everybody was on the same page on every song," said Kinchen. "When we were putting this CD together it just all fell perfectly in place."

Mint Condition @ the speed of life

Written by Harry Colbert, Jr.

