



Grandmaster Flash

Classic Work

The Message expanded the popular possibilities of recorded rap by centering urban pressure, poverty, frustration, and psychological strain. Melle Mel's performance became the record's defining voice, while the group name connected it to the larger Grandmaster Flash and Furious Five legacy.

Editorially, the card must avoid implying that Flash wrote or performed every element of The Message. The recording has a complicated authorship and performance history involving Duke Bootee, Melle Mel, producer Clifton Chase, Sylvia Robinson, and Sugar Hill Records.