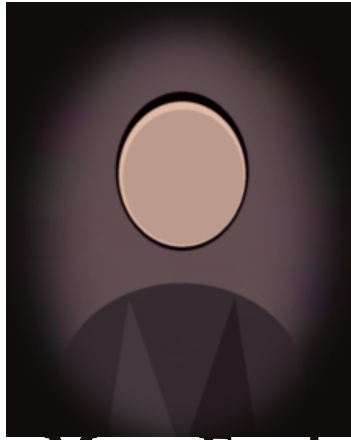




Mary Ford

July 7, 1924 - September 30, 1977

Arcadia, California

Mary Ford - American singer and guitarist whose layered voice beside Les Paul's electric wizardry defined mid-century pop harmony - died in Arcadia, California, on September 30, 1977. She was fifty-three. Born Iris Colleen Summers on July 7, 1924, in El Monte, California, she sang western and country before the studio multitrack era made her sound like a choir of herself.

With Les Paul she cut How High the Moon, Vaya con Dios, and a run of Capitol hits that made close harmony feel futuristic. Their living-room television show sold the dream of domestic genius - guitar cables, kitchen jokes, and perfect takes. Divorce ended the professional partnership; later years brought quieter stages and harder private battles. She remained the voice listeners still hear when they remember how pop discovered the overdub as an instrument of intimacy.

After weeks in a diabetic coma related to alcohol abuse, she died in Arcadia. Forest Lawn-Covina Hills holds her resting place; the tombstone carries Vaya con Dios.

Southern California radio taught polish; Paul's garage taught possibility. She sang as if one voice could become an architecture.

She died in Arcadia on September 30, 1977. Somewhere a stacked harmony is still landing on a held note that feels like goodbye.

Ford's gift was luminous precision - making technology sound like warmth. Notice Nearby keeps the death date

so September 30 remembers the California vocalist who taught the charts to sound like many Marys at once.

Services

Died in Arcadia, California, September 30, 1977. Singer and guitarist; Les Paul & Mary Ford; How High the Moon; Vaya con Dios.

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