



Ric Ocasek

March 23, 1944 - September 15, 2019

New York, New York

Ric Ocasek - born Richard Theodore Ocasek - singer, songwriter, and angular frontman of the Cars, died of natural causes at his New York City townhouse on September 15, 2019. He was seventy-five. Baltimore roots, Cleveland and Boston band years, and a run of new-wave hits that made synthesizers and sarcasm sound like AM radio had already earned the Cars a Rock and Roll Hall of Fame induction in 2018; the following year the quiet ending contradicted the neon of "Just What I Needed," "Drive," and "You Might Think."

Born March 23, 1944, in Baltimore, Ocasek built the Cars with Benjamin Orr and company into a machine that looked cool and hooked hard. Solo work including "Emotion in Motion" proved the songwriting survived outside the band brand. As a producer he helped other artists polish edges without sanding them off. Tall, sunglassed, and slightly alien in the MTV era, he turned detachment into a pop product that still played as feeling.

New York's townhouse death scene - found unresponsive, natural causes - closed a public life that had preferred craft to confession. Fans who grew up on cassette decks learned the calendar date the way earlier generations learned shipwrecks and Speakers: suddenly, then permanently.

He died in New York on September 15, 2019. The Hall of Fame plaque and the singles catalog remain the louder obituaries.

Ocasek's gift was architecture in three-minute songs - hooks as engineering. Notice Nearby records the death date so September 15 keeps the Cars' architect beside Warren's sentences and Johnny Ramone's downstrokes on

an American day already thick with exits.

Services

Died in New York City, September 15, 2019, of natural causes. Singer-songwriter and producer; lead vocalist of the Cars; Rock and Roll Hall of Fame inductee (2018).

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