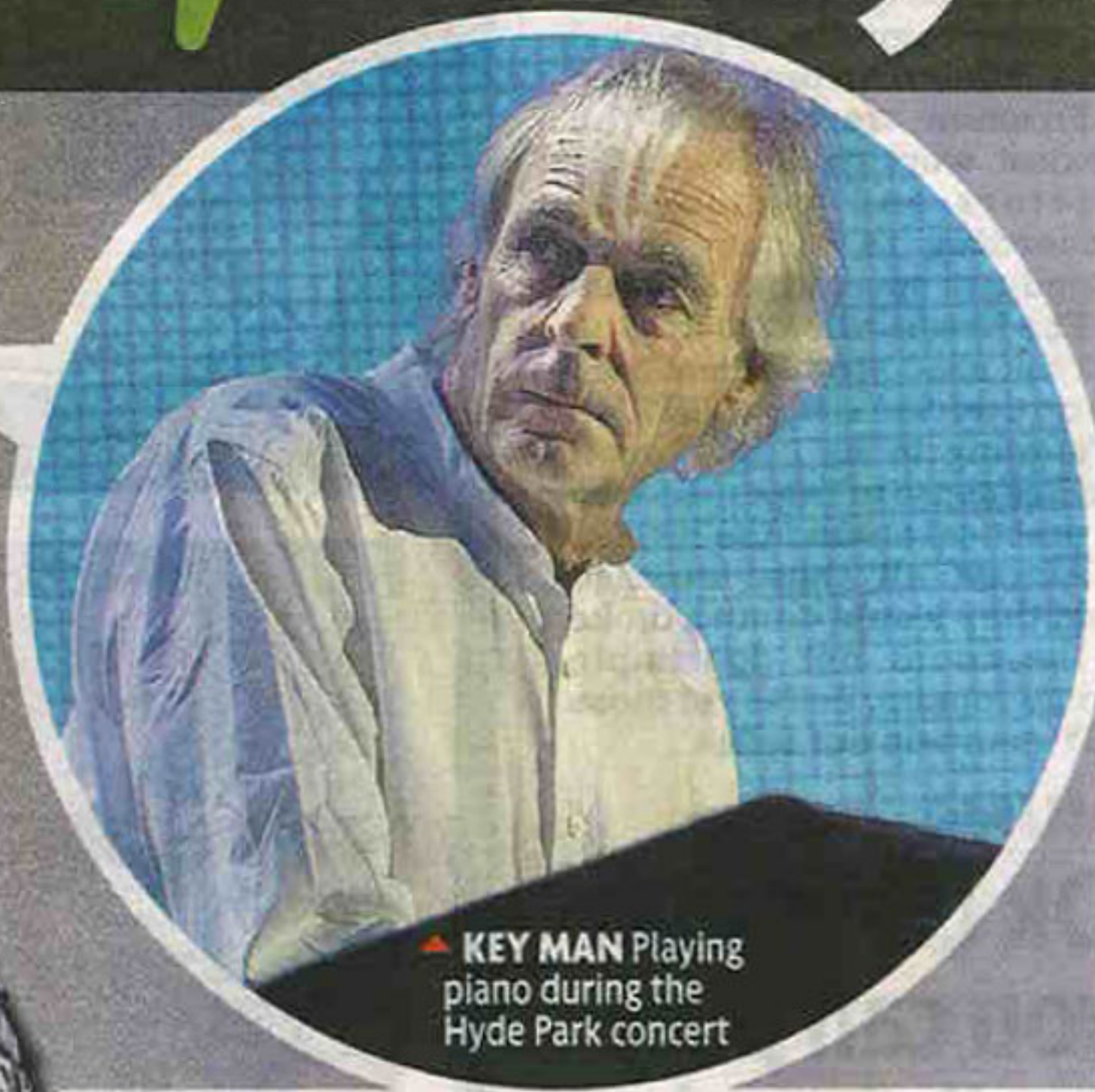


# Pink Floyd legend goes to the Great Gig In The Sky



▶ **DAYS OF 67** From left, Waters, Mason, Barrett and Wright



▶ **KEY MAN** Playing piano during the Hyde Park concert

## BAND FOUNDER RICK DIES AT 65

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**PINK Floyd star Dave Gilmour last night led the tributes to the group's founder member Richard Wright who died yesterday.**

Keyboard legend Wright - who wrote classic tracks such as *The Great Gig In The Sky* and *Us And Them* for the album *Dark Side Of The Moon* - lost his battle with cancer. He was 65.

Gilmour said: "No one can replace Richard. He was my musical partner and my friend. He was gentle, unassuming and private but his soulful voice and playing were vital, magical components of our most recognised sound."

"I have never played with anyone quite like him. In the welter of arguments about who or what was Pink Floyd, Rick's enormous input was frequently forgotten."

"All the greatest Floyd moments are the ones where he is in full flow. After all,

without *Us And Them* and *The Great Gig In The Sky*, what would *The Dark Side Of The Moon* have been?"

Wright, who taught himself keyboards and piano, met fellow band members Roger Waters and Nick Mason while at architecture school.

He was a founder member of *The Pink Floyd Sound* in 1965, and the group's previous incarnations, such as *Sigma 6*.

Londoner Wright appeared on Floyd's first album *The Piper at the Gates of Dawn* in 1967 alongside lead guitarist Syd Barrett, Waters and Mason.

Gilmour joined the band in 1968. Barrett left the group shortly afterwards. A troubled genius, Syd died in 2006.

Wright wrote tracks for 1973 LP *The Dark Side Of The Moon* and *Wish You Were Here* two years later.

He left in 1981 and formed his own band, but rejoined Floyd for their 1987 album *A Momentary Lapse of Reason*.

With Gilmour and Mason, he continued to record and tour into the 90s. The

band released their last studio album *The Division Bell* in 1994. In 2005, the full band reunited - for the first time in 24 years - for the Live 8 concert in London's Hyde Park.

He performed at a tribute gig to Barrett last year. Waters and Gilmour, who fell out more than 25 years ago, appeared separately. Wright, who also made two solo albums, had performed on every Pink Floyd tour.

He had mastered the trombone, saxophone, guitar and piano as a teenager. He had wanted to follow in the footsteps of greats such as Miles Davis and John Coltrane when he was persuaded to study architecture in London. But he left college after a year.

Wright married his first wife Juliette Gale in 1964. They had two children but divorced in 1982. He wed second wife Franka in 1984 but they split 10 years later.

He had one child, Ben, with third wife Millie.



▶ **UNITED** Floyd at Live 8 gig in 2005

- ▶ PINK Floyd have sold more than 200million albums worldwide.
- ▶ THE band formed in 1964 but were called The Tea Set.
- ▶ THEY changed their name to Pink Floyd in 1967 when they realised there was another Tea Set group.
- ▶ THEY are named after two blues stars Pink Anderson and Floyd Council.

- ▶ THEIR 1970 album *Atom Heart Mother* was the first to reach Number One in the UK charts.
- ▶ THE group rejected an offer of nearly £200million to reunite for a final tour after the Live 8 concert in 2005.
- ▶ WATERS wrote the screenplay for Alan Parker's 1982 movie *The Wall* which starred Bob Geldof as the main character Pink.