

Pink Floyd keyboard player dies at 65

By Anita Singh
Showbusiness Editor

A FOUNDING member of Pink Floyd, the keyboard player Richard Wright, has died from cancer. He was 65.

Wright wrote music for their best-selling albums including *Dark Side Of The Moon* and *Wish You Were Here*.

He died yesterday after a short struggle with cancer, his family announced.

His fellow band member, David Gilmour, led the tributes. "He was such a lovely, gentle, genuine man and will be missed terribly by so many who loved him. And that's a lot of people."

Wright met Roger Waters and Nick Mason at architecture school in the 1960s and formed the band with Syd Barrett. Their first album, *The Piper At The Gates Of Dawn*, was released in 1967.

His best-known composition was *The Great Gig In The Sky* from the 1973 album *Dark Side Of The Moon*.

As relations between the band members soured, Wright left in 1979. However, he was retained as a session musician and performed on every Pink Floyd tour. He rejoined the band in 1987 after Waters left.

Pink Floyd were reunited on stage at the Live 8 concert in 2005, the first time that they had performed together in 24 years.



Richard Wright, left, with Syd Barrett in the original line-up of Pink Floyd in the 1960s