

WORLD

## Pink Floyd founding member Richard Wright

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

LONDON — Richard Wright, a founding member of the rock group Pink Floyd, died yesterday. He was 65.

Pink Floyd spokesman Doug Wright, who is not related to the artist, said Wright died after a battle with cancer at his home in Britain. He said the band member's family did not want to give any details about his death.

Wright met Pink Floyd members Roger Waters and Nick Mason in college and joined their early band, Sigma 6. Along with the late Syd Barrett, the four formed Pink Floyd in 1965.

The group's jazz-infused rock and drug-laced multimedia "happenings" made them darlings of the London psychedelic scene, and their 1967 album, "The Piper at the Gates of Dawn," was a hit.

In the early days of Pink Floyd, Wright, along with Barrett, was seen as the group's dominant musical force. The London-born musician and son of a biochemist wrote songs and sang.

The band released a series of commercially and critically successful albums including 1973's "Dark Side of the Moon," which has sold more than 40 million copies.

Wright wrote "The Great Gig In The Sky" and "Us And Them" for that album, and



AFP / GETTY IMAGES FILE PHOTO

**British rockers David Gilmour, Roger Waters, Nick Mason and Richard Wright take a bow for Pink Floyd fans attending the Live 8 concert that reunited the band members in Hyde Park, London, in July 2005.**

worked later on the group's epic compositions such as "Atom Heart Mother," "Echoes" and "Shine On You Crazy Diamond."

But tensions grew among Waters, Wright and fellow band member David Gilmour, tensions that came to a head during the making of "The Wall" when Waters insisted

Wright be fired.

As a result, Wright was relegated to the status of session musician on the tour of "The Wall," and did not perform on Pink Floyd's 1983 album "The Final Cut."

Wright formed a new band, Zee, with Dave Harris, from the band Fashion, and released one album, "Identity," with At-

lantic Records.

Waters left Pink Floyd in 1985 and Wright began recording with Mason and Gilmour again, releasing the albums "The Division Bell" and "A Momentary Lapse of Reason" as Pink Floyd. Wright also released the solo albums "Wet Dream" (1978) and "Broken China" (1996).

In July 2005, Wright, Waters, Mason and Gilmour reunited to perform at the Live 8 charity concert in London — the first time in 25 years they had been on stage together.

Wright also worked on Gilmour's solo projects, most recently playing on the 2006 album "On An Island" and the accompanying world tour.