

# GREAT GIG IN THE SKY

## Cancer kills Pink Floyd star

**By Shema Noah**

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**PINK Floyd keyboard player Richard Wright died yesterday after battling cancer.**

Wright, 65, was a founding member of the legendary British rock act.

His spokesman said: "The family of Richard Wright announce with great sadness, that Richard died today after a short struggle with cancer.

"The family have asked that their privacy is respected at this difficult time."

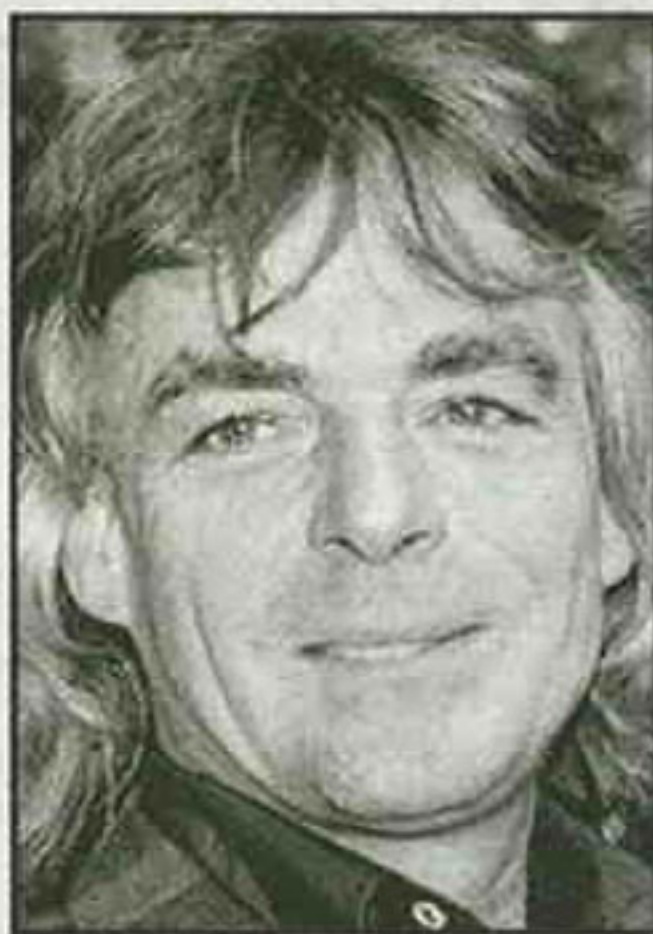
A self-taught keyboard player and pianist, Wright met fellow band members Roger Waters and Nick Mason while at architecture school.

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

Wright is the second original member of the band to die recently, following the death of Syd Barrett last year.

In the early days of Pink Floyd, Wright, along with Barrett, was seen as the group's dominant musical force.

Two of his best known



**BATTLE:** Wright

works were *The Great Gig In The Sky* and *Us And Them*, both from 1973's classic *Dark Side Of The Moon* album.

The album went on to sell more than 40million copies, making it the third biggest seller of all time, and it stayed in the US album charts for a staggering 14 years.

In the late 1970s, Wright's relationship with Waters became increasingly difficult and he left Pink Floyd following sessions for *The Wall* album.

But he was retained as a salaried session musician

during live concerts in 1980 and 1981.

In 1983, Pink Floyd released the only album on which Wright does not appear – *The Final Cut*.

Following Waters departure from the band, Wright rejoined Pink Floyd and played on their 1987 album *A Momentary Lapse Of Reason*.

The band now consisted of Wright, Mason and David Gilmour, who had replaced Syd Barrett when he left the band in the late 60s.

Yesterday, Gilmour said: "Richard 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. Did he not get the loudest, longest round of applause at the end of every show in 2006?"

Wright played with the surviving members of Pink Floyd in 2005 at Live 8.

He also performed at a tribute concert to Barrett last year but Waters and Gilmour, who famously fell out more than 25 years ago, appeared separately.

Wright's spokesman did not say from what form of cancer the star had been suffering.