

PAID IN FULL



Fred Wesley did his second stint with the James Brown Band during the Godfather of Soul's rebirth in the 1970s, his golden period with Polydor Records. As Brown's musical director, bandleader, and arranger, Wesley also got songwriting credits, a rare feat for an artist in the JB family—and a gesture that has kept him paid to this day. Here, Wesley reminisces about their seminal and best-selling record, *The Payback*, which can be seen as a hard and cold metaphor for social justice.

by **Chris Williams**

