

Arts & ENTERTAINMENT

Funk Hit Maker Dead at 71

Jimmy Castor, a New York funk and soul saxophonist, singer and songwriter whose tune, "It's Just Begun," morphed over 40 years into an anthem for generations of hip-hopsters and mainstream musical acts, died Jan. 16 of heart failure in a Las Vegas hospital. He was 71.

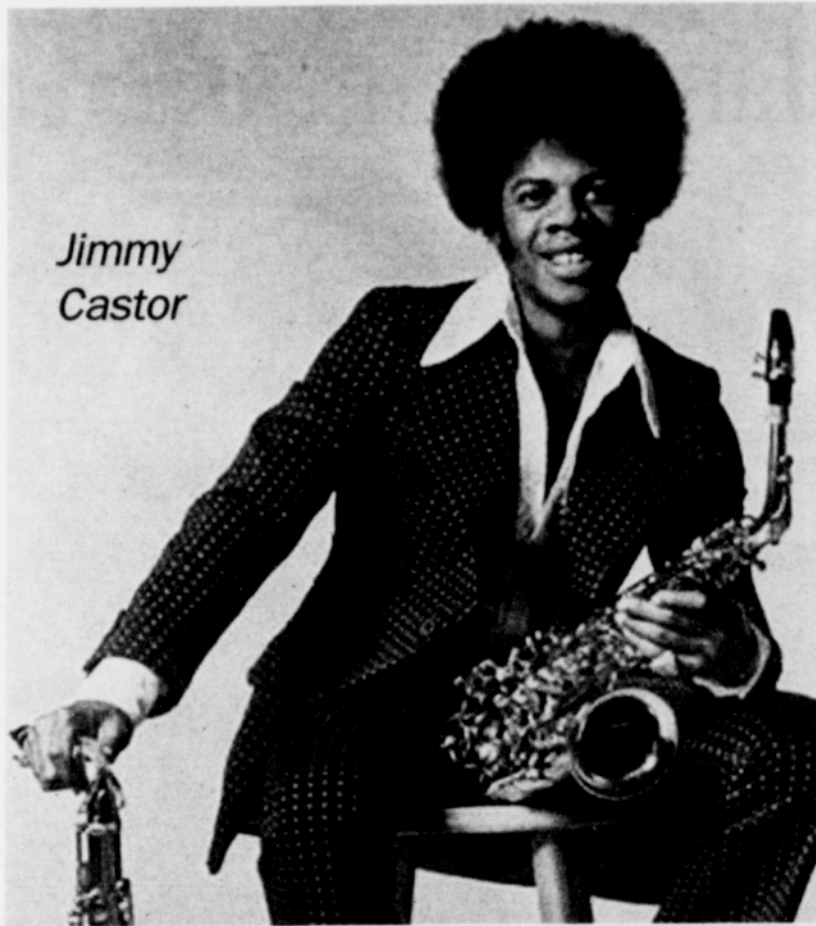
Castor's music, including another 1972 hit, "Troglodyte," spoke for itself thousands of times in riffs and samples by groups like N.W.A., the 2 Live Crew, Kanye West, Ice Cube and Mos Def, as well as acts such as

the Spice Girls, Christina Aguilera and Madonna.

His son, Jimmy Castor Jr., 45, a filmmaker, told The Associated Press he's seen instant recognition hundreds of times at the first sax chords of "It's Just Begun" — even before the lyrics begin. ("Watch me now. Feel the groove. Into something. Gonna make you move.")

"No matter what country you're in, no matter what language you speak, everyone knows it," Jimmy Castor Jr. said.

Jimmy Castor



Kid Ninjas

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worked hard to become a 6th degree master instructor.

After studying under esteemed masters in both the United States and Korea, he has become one of very few African-American masters in his style.

Although often perceived to be a Korean or Asian practice, Arnold said Hapkido can benefit people from all walks of life, like it has in his own experience.

"Size doesn't matter, height doesn't matter, age doesn't matter—all that matters is that you learn the knowledge of it," he said. "If you can learn the knowledge, then you can better your life."

For more information about classes or about Master Eddie Arnold, visit heukchoomuye.com.

Big Brothers, Big Sisters Celebrate

Community, business, and educational leaders will celebrate mentoring and its life-changing impact at the annual Big Brothers Big Sisters African American Board celebration on Thursday, Jan. 26 at 6 p.m. at NW Natural, 220 N.W. Second Ave.

All children deserve a champion and there are 2,400 children on the Big Brothers Big Sisters waitlist, with young black males in particular disproportionately represented.

It is through the hard work of staff, the advisory board, partners and individuals that the agency has been able to serve 44 percent more black children since the board's inception in 2007.

Special recognition will be made

to the late Rob Ingram who served the community through his job, his church, and his role as President of the Big Brothers Big Sisters African American Advisory Board.

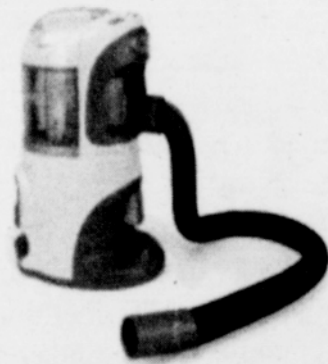
Leaders of the group said it was through Ingram's enthusiasm and hard work that Big Brothers Big Sisters is closer to offering all children of color the option to have a mentor who looks like them.

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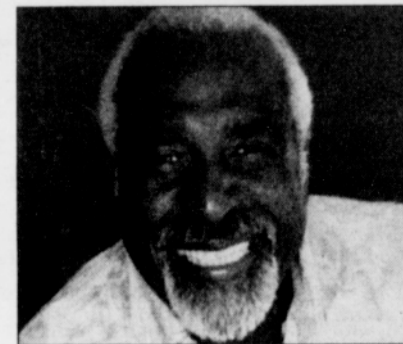
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