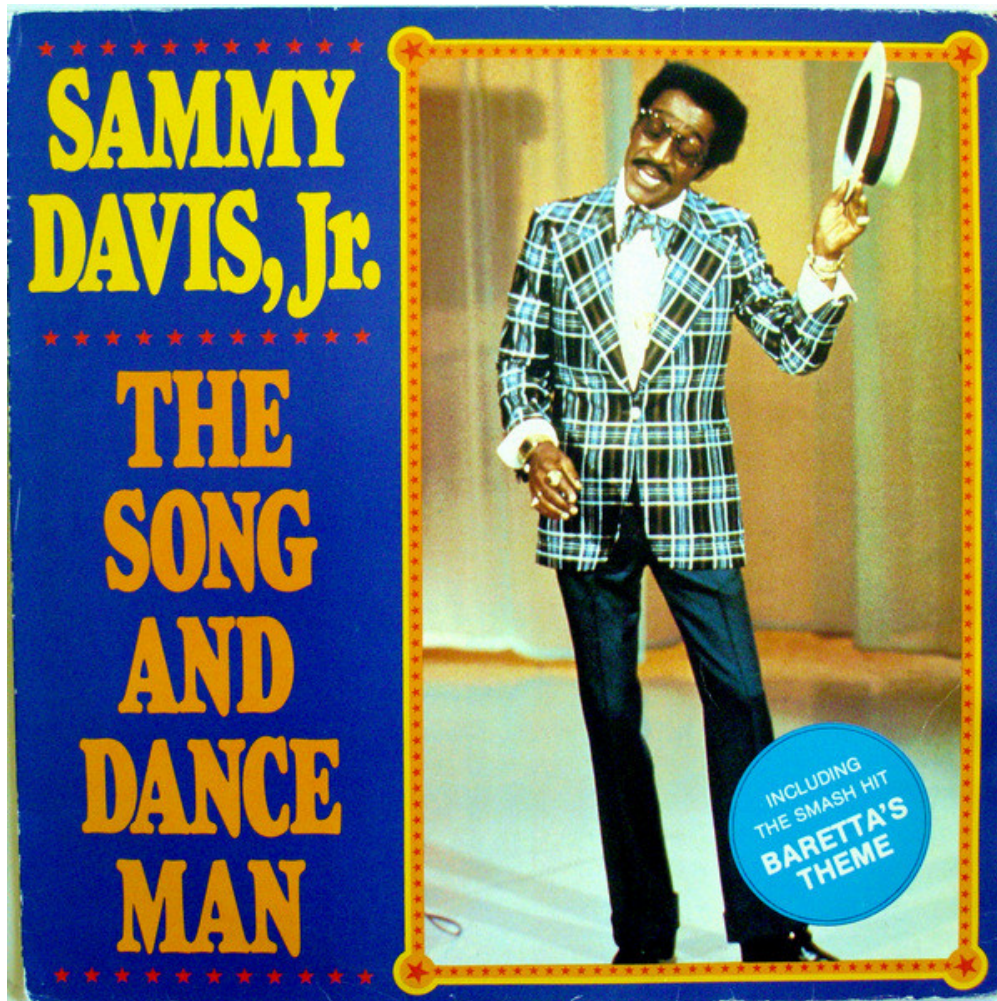


Throwback: Sammy Davis Jr. - Baretta's Theme (Keep Your Eye On The Sparrow)





Sammy Davis Jr. recorded "Baretta's Theme (Keep Your Eye On The Sparrow)" in 1975. *Baretta* was a detective series that ran on CBS from 1975 to 1978. Davis was going through a transition in his career, having recently signed a contract with 20th Century Records. It was a new era in music, and Davis was dealing with ageism in the music industry and trying to find his place. Jim Gilstrap sang on the initial recording, but the studio told songwriter Morgan Ames they couldn't have a Black singer sing the theme to a white show. Davis's version debuted during the show's second season, which was a success.

Davis's "Baretta's Theme" became a hit in the Netherlands, Sweden, and Belgium, inspiring Davis to record more television themes. Morgan Ames and Dave Grusin wrote the song, which was one of the most expressive TV show songs of the '70s. Davis's Broadway background did not inhibit his ability to sing funk, soul, and disco, all three genres heavily embedded in the tune. The *Baretta* theme and Davis's covers of other television

show songs were included on *The Song And Dance Man* album, which was released in 1976 to foreign markets but not in the United States. [Deadline](#) revealed that Hulu will no longer pick up the Davis limited series from Lee Daniels starring Elijah Kelley, which is currently being shopped to other media companies.