

Throwback: Bob Marley and the Wailers-Lively Up Yourself



Bob Marley and the Wailer's "Lively Up Yourself" first appeared on their 1974 album, *Natty Dread*. The song was first recorded in 1973 and reflected the band's political and spiritual growth as they got deeper into Rastafarianism. The religion refers to God as Jah and the followers call the customs livity hence the title "Lively Up Yourself." The reggae ska beat and Al Anderson's bluesy guitar lick kicked off the celebratory feeling of community, cannabis, and resisting colonial rule. *Natty Dread* did well in the UK before reaching other parts of the world and it was the first album Marley recorded without Peter Tosh and Bunny Wailer. "Lively Up Yourself" also appeared on their 1975 *Live!* album and many fans have argued that it is the best version. *Natty Dread* was

remastered and re-released with a bonus track in 2001. The Reinaldo Marcus Green-directed biopic *Bob Marley: One Love* will be released in theaters on February 14, 2024.

Throwback: Bob Marley And The Wailers-Is This Love

Bob Marley and the Wailer's 10th studio album *Kaya* was recorded at the same time as the music for *Exodus* released the previous year. Both albums were created during Marley's two-year exile in England after he, his wife and manager were shot at his Jamaican home. The warmth and easier accessibility of "Is This Love" reflected the album's mood which some fans believed was not political enough. Those songs about love and marijuana were not as fiery as some of their past work but the album was released at the same time as the One Love Peace Concert in Jamaica. Marley returned to perform at the concert that was held to bring calm in the midst of two political parties at war. "Is This Love" was a top ten hit in the UK and became a timeless song in Marley's catalog. A seven-year-old Naomi Campbell appeared in the video that was filmed in London. A live version of "Is This Love" is on the 1978 *Babylon By Bus* album and the famous 1984 compilation *Legend*. Corinne Bailey Rae won a Grammy for her cover of the song on her *Love* EP, Rihanna and Carly Simon also have performed and recorded the Marley classic.

The [Mystic Of A Queen](#) exhibit opened at the Bob Marley Museum in Jamaica this month on Marley's 77th birthday. Rita Marley, his widow, is the subject of the installation that

celebrates her life as a cultural leader, matriarch, philanthropist, businesswoman and artist.Â

Â

Â



Throwback: Ziggy Marley And The Melody Makers-Kozmik

Ziggy Marley and the Melody Maker's sixth album *Jahmekya* was released in 1991. The family-based group of Marley with his siblings Stephen, Sharon and Cedella were Grammy winners and had a previous number one hit. Their past successes did not deter them from covering new sonic ground on *Jahmekya*. They incorporated electronic sounds in their production with

synthesizers and style choices from R&B, hip-hop and funk. "Kozmik" was built on a modern digital dancehall riddim but maintained traditional reggae vocals. It had funk in it too and significant dancefloor appeal. Ziggy's lyrics about evil in the world were expressed in an upbeat space where the brisk beat was adorned with royal horns. The comparisons to his father Bob Marley were ongoing and understandable because of their vocal similarities. The video's psychedelic feel matched the trippiness of "Kozmik."

Jahmekya was complimented by fans and critics for the updated sound and their willingness to take reggae music in other directions. The music was nominated for Best Reggae Album, an award Ziggy Marley and the Melody Makers had won twice for their *Conscious Party* and *One Bright Day* albums. The group disbanded in 2002 after the release of their final 2000 live album. Stephen and Ziggy Marley have had successful solo careers having released 12 combined albums. Sharon Marley is the curator of the Bob Marley Museum. Cedella Marley is the director of the Bob Marley Foundation. Ziggy released his *Family Time* album in 2020 and performed for the Bob Marley 75th Celebration.



Â

R.I.P. Bunny Wailer



Bunny Wailer, one of the founding members of The Wailers has died at age 73. Wailer, who was born Neville Livingston, helped to form The Wailers with Bob Marley and Peter Tosh in 1963. In 1964, they had their first hit on the Jamaican charts with "Simmer Down." Livingston recorded six albums with The Wailers and sang lead on songs like "Dreamland," "Pass It On" and "Hallelujah Time." He left The Wailers in 1973 to pursue his solo career and his debut album *Blackheart Man* was released in 1976. The album was critically acclaimed and Livingston always believed it to be his best work. He saw the release of over 20 solo albums in his lifetime and received a Grammy for Best Reggae Album in 1991 for *Time Will Tell: A Tribute To Bob Marley*. Livingston grew-up with Marley in Jamaica and their parents lived together and gave them a sibling named Pearl. Marley died in 1981 of cancer and Peter Tosh was murdered in 1987. Livingston was the last surviving member of The Wailers. His legacy of spreading the gospel of reggae music and making Rastafarianism popular earned him worldwide respect. He was appreciated at home where he received Jamaica's Order of Jamaica and Order of Merit in 2012 and 2017. In July 2020, he had a stroke and never returned home from the hospital, and passed from complications.Â

