

# R.I.P. Chris Jasper



Chris Jasper passed away on February 23 at the age of 72 after a battle with cancer. Jasper was a member of The Isley Brothers in the '70s and '80s. His inclusion in the group, along with Ernie and Marvin Isley, was the official beginning of them as a six-member band. Jasper lived in the same apartment complex as the Isleys in Cincinnati, Ohio, and his sister married Rudolph Isley. Before he joined the group, the three members were the older brothers Ron, Rudolph, and O'Kelly Isley. Jasper studied music at Julliard and C.W. Post, Long Island University, before he worked with the Isleys full time. He wrote, played, and arranged some of their seminal albums. His contributions to the 12 albums released during that time period, including *Showdown*, *3+3*, *Go for Your Guns* and *Between the Sheets*, are part of The Isley Brothers most fruitful period.

The group splintered in 1984, and Jasper, Ernie, and Marvin started recording as Isley-Jasper-Isley. It is Jasper singing lead on their hit “Caravan of Love,” which he co-wrote with Ernie. They broke up in 1987 and Jasper became a solo artist. He released 16 albums and had a big hit in 1988 with “Superbad,” which made it to number one on the R&B charts. All of his solo music was released on his CBS-distributed Gold City Records. He was inducted into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame as a member of the Isley Brothers in 1992. In 2014, he earned the Grammy Lifetime Achievement Award with the group and they were inducted into the Songwriters Hall of Fame in 2022.

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## **Throwback: The Isley Brothers-It's A Disco Night (Rock Don't Stop)**



The Isley Brothers' "It's A Disco Night (Rock Don't Stop)" was one of the rare times they made a club record. They were known for funk, rock and soul but disco was not a genre they had directly approached despite having helped lead the way to its creation. *Winner Takes All* was their 17th album and it was unusual in other ways because it was their only double album and there were no ballads. But their prolific creativity persevered in their versatility. They mastered a disco groove with the Isley funk percolating in the middle of a rhythm designed for satin slip dresses and oversized collars on the dancefloor. Ron Isley's songbird falsetto gave smooth instructions to the dancers while his brothers Rudolph and Kelly commanded everyone to keep rocking. *Winner Takes All* became a certified Gold album and "It's A Disco Night (Rock Don't Stop)" survived the disco backlash to emerge as another quintessential party jam. The Isley Brothers released their 31st studio album *Make Me Say It Again, Girl* in 2022 and are

long overdue for a biopic.

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## The Isley Brothers-The Plug Feat. 2Chainz Official Video

The Isley Brothers just released *Make Me Say It Again, Girl* and now there is the video for “The Plug” featuring 2Chainz. The title is the name of the original single they recorded in 1975 and Ron Isley recorded a new version of the song with Beyoncé. The album also has guest appearances from El DeBarge, Rick Ross, Quavo, Snoop Dogg, Earth, Wind & Fire, Takeoff and Trey Songz. The new music follows their 2017 *Power Of Peace* project with Carlos Santana.

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## Throwback: The Isley Brothers-Just Came Here To Chill



The Isley Brothers' *Baby Makin' Music* was their 30th album and they were still as excited about making music as they had

always been. It was five years after Ron Isley was reinvented as Mr. Biggs on their 2001 *Eternal* album with the help of R. Kelly and they had maintained their relevancy after five decades. *Baby Makin' Music* was the first released on the now-defunct Def Soul Classics label and "Just Came To Chill" launched its presence. Ron Isley wrote the song with Gordon Chambers and Troy Taylor. The easygoing plea for a pressure-free evening of intimacy outside of a high-profile setting immediately connected with Isley's fans. The video featured actor Idris Elba as the romantic lead while Isley recapped the Mr. Biggs persona with a cliff-hanger at the end. The album went high up the R&B and Billboard 200 charts reaffirming their legacy with a new generation of fans. In 2017 The Isley Brothers collaborated with Carlos Santana on the joint album *Power Of Peace*. In 2021 they participated in the Verzuz battle with Earth, Wind & Fire.



# THE ISLEY BROTHERS

FEATURING  
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BABY MAKIN' MUSIC

