

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.



Throwback: Ziggy Marley And The Melody Makers-Tomorrow People



[youtube id="AM8M-HHSbp0"]Ziggy Marley and the Melody Makers saw the release of their fourth album *Conscious Party* in 1988. The band consisted of Ziggy, Stephen, Cedella and Sharon Marley who are four of Bob Marley's children. They were at the apex of their popularity in the '80s and *Conscious Party* helped them break through to mainstream listeners. "Tomorrow People" was a song about understanding your legacy to be able to look into the future. The influence of their father was immediately recognized and they were compared to Bob Marley and the Wailers. Chris Franz and Tina Weymouth of The Talking Heads produced *Conscious Party* which earned a Grammy for Best Reggae Album in 1989. Ziggy Marley and the Melody Makers have released 10 albums and released a live concert DVD in 2001. Ziggy started recording solo albums in 2003 and his seventh release, *Rebellion Rises* came out in the spring of 2018.

Ziggy Marley Presents:

Dancehall Originators Vol.1

Multiple Grammy winning artist Ziggy Marley, and Tuff Gong Worldwide present "Dancehall Originators Vol 1," the first in a new series of dancehall reggae albums designed to pay homage to the groundbreaking original artists that paved the way for dancehall artists today. The album, which will be released on February 2nd, features tracks by Chaka Demus, Yellow Man and Buju Banton, among others (track list below).

In 1992, producer/songwriter Phillip Smart, founder of Long Island's HC&F Studios, created the scorching "Hot This Year" riddim, whose bouncy keyboard riffs and resounding bass were considered groundbreaking at the time.

From its initial release, "Hot This Year" inspired numerous other artists, including Shaggy, Yellow Man, Buju Banton, and Chaka Demus, to use it as a basis for their own songs. It also inspired the durable and popular song "Hot This Year" by the late DJ Dirtsman, which crossed over into other radio formats.