

Entertainment

Donna Summer family tragedy cancelled dates

Spokesmen for the Las Vegas Hilton confirmed last week that two Donna Summer concerts were canceled because her brother-in-law was killed in a Las Vegas traffic accident during the weekend.

Gilbert Bernard, 33, of Northridge, Calif., died Saturday when the car he was riding in to Las Vegas on Interstate 15 flipped over into the median throwing him from the car.

Bernard was pronounced dead at the scene about 15 miles south of Las Vegas.

Also killed in the crash were Bertha and Robert L. Wise of Reseda, Calif. Their son, Robert, who was driving, survived the 7:30 a.m. accident.

The California group was coming to Las Vegas for the weekend and to watch

"Plink! Plank! Plink! Plank!" The sound comes at you softly, subtly. Single notes on a piano. Offbeat pauses. Instant recognition. And then one measure blends into the next. A right-hand chord. A stride bass. A surge of anticipation. And then — an avalanche of energy, of all-encompassing

Summer in concert, a Hilton spokesman said.

Hilton officials said Bernard was married to Donna Summer's sister. They did not give the sister's name.

Summer continued her concert schedule Saturday and Sunday despite the tragedy, but the shows scheduled for Tuesday and Wednesday were canceled for funeral services in California.

The concert resumed last Friday.

music. Wham! And the Basie Band is off and blowing.

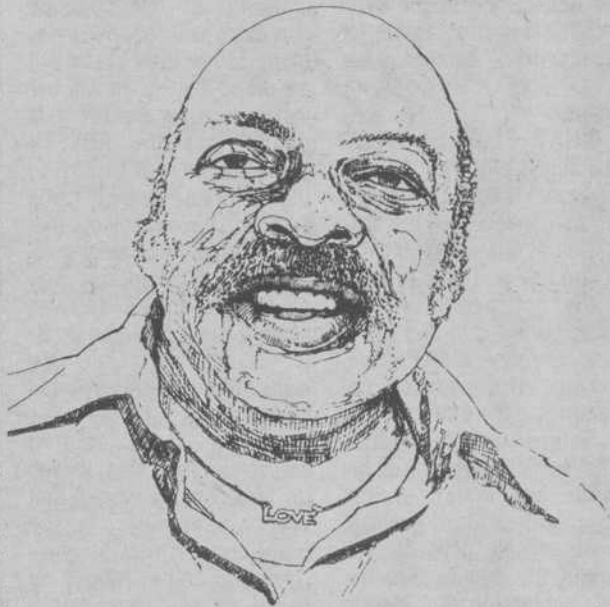
The pattern is familiar. The explosion of joy constant. The exuberance of the big-band sound. Musicianship. Accent. Punctuation. Humor. Power. Five decades of spreading consistent happiness around the world.

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In the era of rock and small groups and electric sounds, the greatness of the Basie

The Count Basie Orchestra



Count Basie

Band remained in the fore. In truth, it never waned. That the talents of Bill Basie and his band remained at the top of their craft was no surprise to artists, audiences and critics and musicians.

Singers long shouted Bill Basie's praises — the greatest of singers from Jimmy Rushing and Joe Williams and Helen Humes, who were an integral part of the band during their days with it, to Frank Sinatra, Ella Fitzgerald, Tony Bennett, Lena Horne, Sarah Vaughan, Judy Garland, Sammy Davis, Jr., Pearl Bailey, Fred Astaire. The Count had been with them on TV specials, on concert tours, on records, on

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