



The Jackson Five, from left to right, Tito, Randy, Marlon, Jermaine and Jackie pose for photographers as they arrive at a concert celebrating 30 years of their brother Michael Jackson's solo career Friday in New York's Madison Square Garden.

## Jackson

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the music. It wasn't until Whitney Houston burst on stage toward the end, her voice soaring above theirs, that the song began to echo the original vitality in which Jackson sang it.

By the time Houston finished, the crowd was dazzled, giving what would be one of several standing ovations of the night.

But from that high, the concert crashed to a low as Marlon Brando took to the stage, his large frame resting on a couch.

Though the crowd cheered at just the sight of the Oscar-winning actor, they soon became bewildered as Brando spent the next few minutes mumbling about child poverty, abuse and disease.

"I saw kids in the last stages of starvation, and it was something you didn't want to see," he said.

It was also something the audience didn't want to hear, as boos began to drown Brando out until he said Jackson was donating money to create a children's hospital in Florida.

His exit drew another standing ovation.

It was moments like these - plus extended delays - that would plague the three-hour-plus concert until Jackson took the stage. For every truly entertaining moment - Marc Anthony beautifully crooning "She's Out of My Life," or Destiny's Child paying homage to Jackson with their fedora hats and white gloves



Al Jarreau, left, dressed as the Tin Man from "The Wizard of Oz," sings with Jill Scott, dressed as the Scarecrow, during Michael Jackson's "30th Anniversary Celebration, The Solo Years" concert.

during "Bootylicious" - there were truly cringe-inducing moments that made you want to close your eyes until they were over.

One was Minnelli's rendition of Jackson's "You Are Not Alone." Although it may be one of Jackson's more schmaltzy songs, the R. Kelly-penned tune was never meant to endure this kind of treatment, as a frail-looking Minnelli warbled the No. 1 hit cabaret style, with a gospel choir behind her.

Other stars' talents were clearly misused.

Al Jarreau was reduced to playing the Tin Man during recreation of scene from "The Wiz," Jackson's only movie role; the performance from Ray Charles and jazz singer Cassandra Wilson seemed out of place and out of sync, given the pop nature of the show.

Then there were the videotaped tributes to Jackson, which lauded him as the "greatest," the "most sensitive," the "most successful" ad naseum.

But those moments were

temporarily forgotten once Jackson appeared on the stage.

Though the sight of him was at times jarring - his pale, surgically altered face seems incapable of showing much expression anymore - his presence was formidable.

First performing together with his brothers for the first time since their 1984 "Victory" tour, he dazzled the audience with each shimmy or yelp. The highlight was the group's performance of "I'll Be There," which showcased Jackson's soulful interpretation of the classic. Even a cameo appearance by 'N Sync during "Dancing Machine" couldn't upstage the electricity of just the brothers performing together.

Then it was time for Jackson to shine, alone.

Anyone expecting Jackson to reinvent himself artistically would be disappointed, however: The only new material from Jackson came as he performed his new single, "You Rock My World," the first release from

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## Combs traffic ticket dismissed

MIAMI (AP) - Sean "P. Diddy" Combs' traffic stop on South Beach's Ocean Drive during Easter weekend won't cost him any more than the bills from his two lawyers.

Combs' legal team won dismissal Wednesday of a charge that he passed illegally while riding a motor scooter on April 14 on the two-lane road, which is gridlocked with rubbernecking motorists and pedestrians on a normal weekend.

Judge Sheldon Schwartz decided the less-stringent laws for mopeds, rather than motorcycles, applied to Combs and dropped the charge, which carried a possible \$62 fine. Combs, who also goes by the nickname "Puffy," didn't have to be at the court hearing, and wasn't.

"The reality is, Puffy didn't pass seven cars, and we had witnesses to prove it," defense attorney Jayne Weintraub said outside court afterward, challenging testimony by Miami Beach patrol Officer Mario Rojo.

Miami prosecutors are still deciding whether to charge the 31-year-old Combs with running a red light and almost hitting a pedestrian with his Ferrari in June. He was in town after being acquitted of weapons and bribery charges after a 1999 nightclub shooting in New York.

Also on Wednesday, Combs reached a tentative agreement with model Kim Por-

ter, the mother of his youngest child, on how much he'll pay to support their 3-year-old son.

He now gives Porter, 30, a court-ordered \$11,000 a month for the support of Christian Casey Combs, according to comments lawyers made during a hearing in Manhattan's Family Court.

Porter had asked the court to award her as much child support as the law allows. This means 17 percent of Combs' adjusted gross income, which Porter's lawyer, Suzanne Bracker, estimated at several million dollars a year.

Combs also would have had to pay for medical expenses, a live-in nanny, tutors, after-school programs, summer camp, sports programs, private-school tuition and other expenses for the child.

Details of the tentative agreement, which Bracker said has a few minor points of contention, were not disclosed.

Meanwhile, a Long Island, N.Y., judge fined Combs \$350 for chopping down protected vegetation around his Hamptons home.

Combs pleaded guilty to one count of clearing in a conservation area after reportedly missing nine court dates. He was accused of mowing down sea-grass and blueberry bushes at his \$2.5 million estate.

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