



## 2023 Nomination Form

Application deadline: Friday, February 24 by 5 p.m.

DELIVER TO: City Hall, 101 N. Main St., Winston-Salem,  
Marketing & Communications Department, Suite 336

OR MAIL TO: City of Winston-Salem,  
Marketing & Communications  
Department  
P.O. Box 2511  
Winston-Salem, NC 27102

Nominee's Stage Name: Curtisk Hairston Given Name: Curtisk Hairston

Address at Time of Death: 818 Woodcote St. WS, NC 27107 State: N.C.

Dates of Residency: 1990 to: 1996 (ex: 2000-2010)

Category:  Music  Visual Arts  Dance  Motion Pictures  
 Theater  Television  Writing  Radio

### Criteria:

- The nominee(s) exhibited sustained excellence in his or her field for at least five years.
- The nominee(s) made distinguished contributions to the community and civic-oriented participation.
- The nominee(s) is deceased (must provide copy of death certificate or obituary).
- The nominee(s) was a resident of Winston-Salem for at least five years.
- The nominee(s) made a significant contribution to the arts or entertainment industry in one or more of the following areas: music, dance, theater, writing, visual arts, motion pictures, television, or radio.

A "significant" contribution would be iconic in terms of renown and the impact on the artistic disciplines or popular culture.

### Application to Include:

- Attach nominee's performance/accomplishment biography which must include at least 5 years of accomplishments in the arts, culture, or entertainment field.
- Attach a list of nominee's civic/community involvement.
- Attach a copy of nominee's death certificate or obituary.

Sponsor Name: Clarence Hairston

Address: 4900 SW 46th Ct Apt 503

City: Deala State: FL Zip Code: 34474

Email: candg208@gmail.com

Phone: Home: \_\_\_\_\_ Cell: 336-391-6772

Signature: Clarence A. Hairston Date: 2-7-23

NORTH CAROLINA DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT, HEALTH AND NATURAL RESOURCES  
STATE CENTER FOR HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENTAL STATISTICS - VITAL RECORDS SECTION  
**CERTIFICATE OF DEATH**

2789

Registration District No. 0445 Local No. 3820

DECEDENT'S NAME (First, Middle, Last) Curtis Kinnard Hairston SEX M DATE OF DEATH (Month, Day, Year) 01-18-96

SOCIAL SECURITY NUMBER 299 88 7891 AGE - Last Birthday (years) 34 UNDER 1 YEAR: Months 00 Days 00 UNDER 1 DAY: Hours 00 Minutes 00 DATE OF BIRTH (Month, Day, Year) 10-10-61 BIRTH-PLACE (County and State or Foreign Country) Forsyth, NC

WAS DECEDENT EVER IN U.S. ARMED FORCES? (Yes or No) NO PLACE OF DEATH (Check only one)  
 HOSPITAL  Inpatient  ER/Outpatient  DOA OTHER  Nursing Home  Residence  Other (Specify)

**DECEDENT**

FACILITY NAME (If not institution, give street and number) N.C. Baptist Hosp CITY, TOWN, OR LOCATION OF DEATH Winston Salem INSIDE CITY LIMITS? Yes COUNTY OF DEATH Forsyth

MARITAL STATUS: Married, Never Married, Widowed, Divorced, Separated Married SURVIVING SPOUSE (If wife, give maiden name) None during last of working life. Do not use maiden. DECEDENT'S USUAL OCCUPATION (Give kind of work) Disabled KIND OF BUSINESS/INDUSTRY

RESIDENCE - STATE NC COUNTY Forsyth CITY, TOWN, OR LOCATION Winston Salem STREET AND NUMBER 818 Woodcroft

INSIDE CITY LIMITS? Yes ZIP CODE 27107 Was Decedent of Hispanic Origin? (Specify Yes or No) No RACE - American Indian, Black, White, Etc. (Specify) Black DECEDENT'S EDUCATION (Specify only highest grade completed) Elementary/Secondary (0-12) College (13-17)

**PARENTS**

FATHER'S NAME (First, Middle, Last) Clarence Hairston Sr MOTHER'S NAME (First, Middle, Maiden Surname) Shirley Craftshoff

**INFORMANT**

INFORMANT'S NAME (Type/Print) Shirley Hairston MAILING ADDRESS (Street and Number or Rural Route Number, City or Town, State, ZIP Code) 818 Woodcroft Street, Winston Salem, NC 27107 DATE AMENDED

**CAUSE OF DEATH**

PART I. Enter the diseases, injuries, or complications that caused the death. Do not enter the mode of dying, such as cardiac or respiratory arrest, shock, or heart failure. If appropriate, enter tobacco, alcohol, or drug use. List only one cause on each line. (PRINT or TYPE)  
 IMMEDIATE CAUSE (Final disease or condition resulting in death) Atherosclerotic Cardiovascular Disease  
 DUE TO (OR AS A CONSEQUENCE OF) End Stage Renal Disease  
 DUE TO (OR AS A CONSEQUENCE OF) Juvenile Onset Diabetes Mellitus  
 CAUSE (Disease or injury that initiated events resulting in death) LAST

PART II. Other significant conditions contributing to death but not resulting in the underlying cause given in Part I, such as tobacco, alcohol, or drug use, diabetes, etc.  
None

AUTOPSY? (Yes or No) Yes Were findings considered in determining cause of death? Yes Was case referred to Medical Examiner? (Yes or No) Yes TIME OF DEATH 8:30 A

NOTICE: STATE LAW REQUIRES THAT ALL DEATHS DUE TO TRAUMA, ACCIDENT, HOMICIDE, SUICIDE, OR UNDER SUSPICIOUS, UNUSUAL, OR UNNATURAL CIRCUMSTANCES BE REPORTED TO, AND CERTIFIED BY A MEDICAL EXAMINER ON A MEDICAL EXAMINER'S CERTIFICATE OF DEATH. ANY DEATH FALLING INTO THESE CATEGORIES IS WITHIN THE MEDICAL EXAMINER'S JURISDICTION REGARDLESS OF THE LENGTH OF SURVIVAL FOLLOWING THE UNDERLYING INJURY.

**SIGNATURE**

SIGNATURE AND TITLE OF CERTIFIER Richard G. Appel DATE SIGNED (Month, Day, Year) 1/18/96

NAME AND ADDRESS OF PERSON WHO COMPLETED CAUSE OF DEATH (ITEM 20) (Type or Print) Richard G. Appel, Bowman Gray Sch Med, Winston-Salem, NC

**DISPOSITION**

METHOD OF DISPOSITION:  Burial  Cremation  Removal  Donation  Other Other PLACE OF DISPOSITION (Name of cemetery, crematory, or other place) Fairview Cemetery LOCATION - City or Town, State, ZIP Code Winston-Salem, NC

NAME AND ADDRESS OF FUNERAL HOME Hogar Funeral Home, 1415 E. 14th St, Winston-Salem, NC SIGNATURE OF FUNERAL DIRECTOR [Signature] LICENSE NUMBER 1311

## HAIRSTON

Mr. Curtis Kinnard Hairston of 818 Woodcote St. was born on Tuesday, October 10, 1961 to the late Clarence L. Hairston, Sr. and Shirley Crutchfield Hairston Holloway in Winston-Salem. His early public education was in the Winston-Salem/Forsyth County Schools, and he furthered his education at Winston-Salem State University. He furthered his musical training at Julliard School of Music in New York. While attending WSSU his freshman year, he won the "Mr. Ram" contest. Curtis was a professional vocalist, recording for Pretty Pearl Productions, Atlantic Records, and the B B and Q Label. He returned home from New York after his health began to deteriorate. Curtis accepted Christ at the age of six and remained active even through his poor health. He started singing in First Baptist Church at the age of three and was actively involved in the Tot's Choir, Children's Choir, and was an active member of the Spiritual Choir. Mr. Hairston passed away on Thursday, January 18, 1996 at the N.C. Baptist Hospital. Funeral services will be held today, January 20, 1996 at 2:30 p.m. at First Baptist Church with Rev. Wendell A. Johnson, Pastor, officiating. Inhumation will follow in the Fairview Cemetery in Walnut Cove. The family will receive friends 30 minutes prior to the service at the church. Cherishing his memory are his mother, Shirley Hairston Holloway; step-father, William Holloway of the home; one brother, Clarence (Robin) Hairston II of Washington, D.C.; two nieces, Dana and Danielle Hairston of Washington, D.C.; one nephew, Terrell Hairston of Washington, D.C.; one great nephew, Jalyn Hairston of Washington, D.C.; one step-brother, Christopher Holloway; three step-sisters, Tonia (Ken) Garrison, Linda and Sherrie Holloway, all of Winston-Salem; three uncles; five aunts; one great aunt; three step-aunts; and a host of other relatives and friends. In lieu of flowers, the family has requested that memorials be made to First Baptist Church. The cortege will assemble at the residence at the residence at 1:15 p.m. Hooper Funeral Home is in charge of the arrangements for Mr. Curtis Kinnard Hairston.

*From the Winston-Salem Journal, Saturday, January 20, 1996, Pages B1, B6*  
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## R&B singer Hairston, a native of Winston, dies at age 34

By Ed Bumgardner  
JOURNAL ARTS REPORTER

Curtis K. Hairston was 3 years old when he made his debut as a singer.

"My father had asked Curtis to get up in church and sing," said Shirley H. Holloway, Hairston's mother. "He walked up there, reached up and grabbed that microphone like it belonged to him."

She laughed. "From that point, all Curtis ever wanted to do was sing.

Two weeks ago, Hairston, 34, again stood in front of a congregation to sing.

D'Walla Burke, the choir director at Winston-Salem State University, was in attendance to hear Hairston sing "Amazing Grace."

"It was beautiful," she said.

It was Hairston's last performance: A lifelong diabetic, Hairston died of kidney failure Thursday at Baptist Hospital.

During his lifetime, Hairston touched many people with his voice.

He performed at several social functions for the Kennedy clan, sang for two presidents and performed in Europe and Asia.

During the 1980s, Hairston, a native of Winston-Salem, moved to New York City where he released a number of acclaimed recordings for Atlantic Records and Pretty Pearl Productions, a record company run by basketball great Earl "The Pearl" Monroe.

His cool, satin-smooth delivery -- often favorably compared to that of Luther Vandross, Peabo Bryson and the late Billy Eckstine -- made Hairston the toast of the New York club scene.

Hairston's talent was such that Vandross sang backup on his first record.

"Curtis had an ability to move people with his voice," Monroe said. "On Thursday, several radio stations in New York paid tribute to Curtis by playing his songs throughout the day. One of the DJs broke down and cried on the air -- which is something that never happens in New York.

"Curtis was special -- a great talent and a marvelous human being."

Janice Price, a local jazz singer, knew Hairston since he was a boy. After a performance Thursday night, Price said she went home and listened to one of Hairston's early recordings.

"I just started crying," she said. "His passing is such a tragedy. He was a terrific singer who was beyond classification, just fantastic."

Keith Byrd, a local jazz pianist, first worked with Hairston as members of Jazz Transit, a group of local musicians sponsored by the Urban Arts program.

Hairston was only 14 at the time but his delivery and stage presence were already developed.

"He was one of those people who are naturally talented," Byrd said. He was among the vocal elite. Ballad singing was his forte, and he had his own style. He knew who he was and what he wanted to be.

"As long as I knew him, all he ever thought about was singing in New York."

Hairston's ticket to New York was Monroe, whom he met in 1982 when Monroe, a graduate of Winston-Salem State, visited Winston-Salem.

"Curtis came over to the hotel where I was staying and woke me up," Monroe said, laughing. "He brought me this tape that was nearly inaudible. I told him to get me another tape, which he did. Once I heard him sing, I knew that I was listening to one of the best voices I had ever heard."

Monroe was interested in getting involved in the music business, so he founded Pretty Pearl Productions as a means of promoting Hairston.

Hairston's first release for Pretty Pearl, "I Want You (All Tonight)" became a dance-club hit in New York. The success of the song led to Hairston signing with Atlantic Records in 1986.

"Aside from doing business with Curtis, I was also a fan," Monroe said. "To be honest, Curtis made it hard on me. I listened to other singers, and I ended up turning down people like Keith Sweat -- who went on to be huge star -- because I didn't think he measured up to Curtis."

Hairston is known for such R&B recordings as "I Want You (All Tonight)," "Shining Star" and "We All Are One," but it was in church that Burke heard Hairston sing.

"Even when he was seriously ill, we had an agreement that whenever he came to church, if he felt like singing, we would let him sing," Burke said. Curtis was a very lovable, warm and sharing person, and those qualities came out in his singing.

"Everybody who listened to him sing walked away feeling like they knew him. He always made you feel like he was singing directly to you, that he understood your special needs."

Five years ago, Hairston's kidneys began to fail. Four years ago, he left New York and moved back to Winston-Salem for dialysis treatment.

"After he came home, he always loved to go to the church and sing," Holloway said.

"Even when he was so sick, he had a way of making a connection of love, peace and harmony with everyone he met. He could make those doctors and nurses smile and laugh when things were getting too serious.

"He was never angry. He once told me that he was lucky, because he had gotten paid to do something that he loved."

She fell silent. "His voice was a gift from God, and he spent his life excelling with that gift."

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**Contact the class webmaster, [Matt Wallace](mailto:efshs1979@yahoo.com), at [efshs1979@yahoo.com](mailto:efshs1979@yahoo.com).**

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