Monday, January 8, 2007
Minneapolis Edition

INSIGHT

The Journal For Community News, Business & The Arts • www.insightnews.com

James Brown performing in Vienna, Austria on November 3rd, 2006. Photo © Beate Sandor, Austria • http://pressphotos.beatesandor.com

James Br

The most infl musician in

By George Curry
NNPA / Black Press of America

AUGUSTA, GA. (NNPA) --When he died early Christmas Day, James Brown, left behind the legacy of having been the most influential musician in history, credited with single-handedly inspiring what was known as soul music, disco, funk and rap over a career that spanned 50 years and produced 800 songs, an average of more than 16 records a year.

Brown died early Christmas at Emory Crawford Long Hospital in Atlanta of heart failure brought on by complications from pneumonia. He was 73 years old.

''He was an innovator, he was an emancipator, he was an originator,'' said Little Richard. ''Rap music, all that stuff, came from James Brown.''

Brown was buried Saturday on his estate in Beech Island, S.C., just across the state line near Augusta, Ga., following three days of farewells.

The most elaborate was Brown's final appearance Thursday at New York City's famed Apollo Theater,

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