original performance. The new album is called

and Dony. Anistrong died less than six months later on July 6, 1971. AP

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ing: Allison Horton

## **Elton John sued over**

A South African man is suing singer Elton John and his collaborator for allegedly stealing the lyrics for his hit 1985 song "Nikita."

Guy Hobbs' song "Natasha" centers on "an impossible love affair between a Western man and a Russian woman during the Cold War," according to a lawsuit filed in U.S. District Court of Chicago last week.

John's song focuses on a Western man who develops a crush on an East Germany border guard whom he can't meet because he is not al-

lowed to enter the country. Hobbs claims "Nikita" used "substantial, original portions" of his song, and his three-count lawsuit seeks an unspecified amount of money from John, his longtime collaborator Bernie Taupin and Big Pig Music Ltd.

Hobbs, a freelance photojournalist living in Cape Town, claims he wrote "Natasha" in 1982 when he worked as a photographer on a Russian cruise ship, where he became romantically involved with a Russian waitress. AP