



Edward Kidd Jordan

April 7, 2023

Edward Kidd Jordan, the legendary improvisational saxophonist and music educator was called home on April 7, 2023 surrounded by his loving family at the age of 87. He was the youngest child of the late Leonard Jordan and the late Pauline Pete Jordan. He was the much loved brother to his six older siblings who preceded him in death; Mama Johnie, Adam, Yancy, Felton, Sammy and Paul who died in infancy.

He was the devoted husband to his sweetheart Edvidge Chatters Jordan for 69 glorious years. Their loving spirit flowed throughout their home and into the lives of their seven children; Edward Jordan Jr., Kent Jordan, Christie Jordan Bibbins, Paul Jordan, Stephanie Jordan, Rachel Jordan and Marlon Jordan. He is also survived by a number of grandchildren, nieces and nephews, relatives and friends.

Jordan is acclaimed internationally as one of the true master improvisers. Indie Jazz aptly describes Kidd Jordan as a “genteel man” who is probably the single most under-documented jazz musician of his generation... He was recognized as a jazz maverick back in the 1940s intent on exploring jazz rooted music's outer reaches.

Jordan shared his gift of and passion for music for more than 50 years, 34 of which he spent at Southern University at New Orleans (SUNO) until he retired in 2006 as head of the jazz studies program.

He has performed and recorded with a broad array of musicians in styles ranging from R&B to avant-garde jazz, including Lena Horne, Frank Sinatra,

Aretha Franklin, Nancy Wilson, Gladys Knight, Ray Charles, Stevie Wonder, The Temptations, R.E.M., Art Neville, Aaron Neville, Johnny Adams, Fats Domino, Smokey Johnson, Dave Bartholomew, Deacon John, Ellis Marsalis, Cannonball Adderley, Alvin Batiste, Maynard Chatters, Archie Shepp, Dewey Redmond, Fred Anderson, Ornette Coleman, Sun RA, William Parker, Hamid Drake, Alan Silva, Ed Blackwell, and Cecil Taylor, among others. He was a member of two prominent New Orleans Big Bands: William Houston, and Herb Tassin.

A New Orleans resident, Jordan was born in Crowley, Louisiana, on May 5, 1935. He grew up listening to Zydeco and Blues while attending Ross High School. It was there that he learned to play saxophone from his music teachers; Warren Milson and Joseph Oger, a French-Canadian. After hearing Charlie Parker and Lester Young, he became interested in the art of jazz improvisation.

His growth as a musician continued when he encountered Southern University Baton Rouge alums Emmett Jacobs and William Byrd. When Mr. Jordan landed in Baton Rouge from 1952 to 1955, he advanced his music studies under Southern University's band director T. Leroy Davis and woodwind teachers John Banks and Huel Perkins. While attending Southern, he also connected with another soon-to-be musical legend, his bandmate and Kappa Alpha Psi fraternity brother and future brother-in-law, the late Alvin Batiste. After his years at Southern University, Mr. Jordan began his journey to share his knowledge of music. Jordan began his formal teaching career in 1955 at Bethune High School in Norco, Louisiana. Prior to that, he spent time in New Orleans' historic Faubourg Tremé as an instructor at the William Houston School of Music.

Jordan relocated in 1955 to New Orleans, where he began playing R&B alongside musicians such as Guitar Slim, Ray Charles, Big Maybelle, Big Joe Turner, Lloyd Lambert, Lawrence Cotton, Chuck Willis, George Adams, and Choker Campbell.

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Charles, Big Maybelle, Big Joe Turner, Lloyd Lambert, Lawrence Cotton, Chuck Willis, George Adams, and Choker Campbell.

Jordan later earned his master's degree in music from Millikin University in Decatur, Illinois, where he studied under Drs. J. Roger Miller, Roger Schueler and Jean Northrup. Jordan's post-graduate summer studies led him to Northwestern University in Evanston, Illinois, where he studied under Fred Hemker.

In 1975 he founded the Improvisation Arts Quintet which recorded a remarkable catalogue of free-flowing instinctive interactive avant-garde music. Citing him as a visionary educator and performer, the French Government recognized Jordan in 1985 as a Knight (Chevalier) of the Ordre des Arts et des Lettres, their nation's highest honor.

For the past three decades Jordan had a highly productive relationship with drummer Alvin Fielder and bassist William Parker. Together with innovative pianist Joel Futterman they perform and record together. Jordan's first recording was titled, "No Compromise," and done in collaboration with Alvin Fielder, Clyde Kerr, Jr., Kent Jordan, Elton Heron, and London Branch. The album very accurately expresses Jordan's personal conviction about his music and friendship with original IAQ member, the late Alvin Thomas.

Jordan was honored with Offbeat magazine's first Lifetime Achievement Award for Music Education, and his musical contributions have been documented on CBS' 60 Minutes. In 2008, Southern University at New Orleans Foundation honored Jordan during their annual BASH III, and Jordan received a Lifetime Achievement Honoree at the Vision Festival XIII in New York City. In 2013, the Jazz Journalist Association named Jordan a "Jazz Hero."

In May of 2017, Jordan received an honorary Doctor of Music degree from Loyola University New Orleans. In 2021, Kidd received United States Artists Fellow award supported by the Doris Duke Charitable Foundation. On Kidd's 87th birthday on May 5, 2022, the New Orleans City Council proclaimed May

5th Edward "Kidd" Jordan Day in the City of New Orleans.

Jordan was also recipient of the Louis Armstrong Educational Foundation Jazz Pioneer Award, and the Louis "Satchmo" Armstrong Summer Jazz Camp award from the New Orleans Arts & Cultural Host Committee.

On May 20, 2020, Jordan celebrated his 85th birthday with the announcement of his final album, "Last Trane to New Orleans," produced by his daughter Rachel produced and engineered by grandson Paul Sims. The album showcases Kidd Jordan's Avant-garde style and expresses his life experiences. The live recording was held at McDonogh 35 Senior High School auditorium on the eve of the City-wide imposed Stay Home Coronavirus restrictions.

His Celebration of Life will be held at Gallier Hall, 545 St. Charles Avenue on Saturday, April 15, 2023 at 11:00 am. Visitation will begin at 8:00 am.

Interment: Mt. Olivet Cemetery. Please visit www.rhodesfuneral.com to sign the guestbook.

Final arrangements have been entrusted to D.W. Rhodes Funeral Home. The funeral services will be available for live viewing on www.KiddJordan.com, via Zoom at <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84163191593>, or by using the referenced QR Code.

In lieu of flowers, the Jordan family requests that donation be made to either the Louis Armstrong Summer Jazz Camp, or Music Alive Ensemble of New Orleans.

Previous Events

Visitation

APR 15. 8:00 AM - 11:00 AM (CT)

Gallier Hall
545 St. Charles Ave.
New Orleans, LA 70130

Funeral Service

APR 15. 11:00 AM (CT)

Gallier Hall
545 St. Charles Ave.
New Orleans, LA 70130

Tribute Wall

LW

“ Professor Kidd Jordan was an extraordinary man! He was always two or three steps ahead in his thoughts, straight in his speech, and aware of everything happening around him. I believe he saw in me what would take me decades to truly see in myself. And, I love and appreciate him for choosing me as his first hand-picked student. His work absolutely changed the trajectory of my life! Mr Jordan, THANK YOU! We will continue your work down here. Rest in peace!

*Until We Meet Again,
Leo Jermaine Williams and The Williams Family*

Leo Jermaine Williams - April 18, 2023 at 06:37 AM

CS

“ My deepest condolences to the Jordan Family. I was a student in his beginning music class at Southern University of New Orleans. I'm glad to have him as my professor. May God bless his family.
Cheryl Scott.

Cheryl Scott - April 15, 2023 at 11:51 PM

EW

“ Dear Aunt “Veegie”, Binky, Kent, Tina, Paul, Rachel, Stephanie and Marlon, I so wish that I could have been there to celebrate Uncle Kidds homegoing but I am thankful that I was able to be present via the zoom link. My heart hurts along with all of yours but what a gift Uncle Kidd was to all those who were fortunate enough to have known him. Paul, your tribute to your father touched me as I agree that each of us is challenged to use our unique gifts to encourage and uplift those around us. Even brief interactions can impact a person for a lifetime....may it always be positive.

Love and miss you all,
Lizzy, Lizzy,Bo bizzy💕💕

Elizabeth Williams - April 15, 2023 at 02:52 PM

VW

“ Kldd Jordan was my professor at SUNO and knew via William Houston, Jr. my private instructor, and Williams Houston Sr. my junior high school teacher. Jordan was phenomenal in his teaching presentations and performance executions. Transparent, genuine, disciplined and out spoken for impactful results. Rest in Heaven as we cherish you memory.

Valentine Bemiss Williams

Valentine Bemiss Williams - April 15, 2023 at 12:49 PM

EP

“ *To: the Jordan family*

Mr. Jordan lived and taught what he loved, "music". He was both band director and mentor to me at Bethune High School in Norco, LA. He put his heart and soul into a small-town high school band. He often stated, "You don't have to be big in numbers to be good".

The only teacher to always call me "Bubba" was unique and something to treasure.

May you find comfort in the days ahead as you reflect fond memories of your beloved as we (the students) forever cherish "the legend".

Loving memories never die.

*Ellis (Bubba) Parquet
Bethune High School
Class of '67*

Ellis Parquet - April 14, 2023 at 08:54 PM

KH

“ *To The Jordan Family, Please accept my deepest condolences on the loss of Uncle Kidd. Sending much love to Aunt Vidgie and the entire family. May Uncle Kidd Rest in Eternal Peace, and his memory be a blessing.*

*Sincerely,
Kymmie Heron*

Kymmie Heron - April 14, 2023 at 05:50 PM



“ *Enchanted Cottage was purchased for the family of Edward Kidd Jordan.*



April 14, 2023 at 02:00 PM

GM

“ I was a student of Bethune High school. He came in like a force of nature. Put his heart and soul into teaching and sharing his talents and love of music with those now realizing the talents of the man before them. With little resources or funds to help, he made a small school band a source of pride for our people in the parish of St. Charles. He taught my brothers and husband at Bethune and SUNO, years later he taught my son at SUNO. For many years former students would stop by just to say hello. He would always warmly welcome us and introduce us to his class as his Bethune High School family.

Five years ago when my husband was gravely ill, he would hold on tightly to my hand. I gave him a small plush teddy bear that he would hold tightly to the end. I told him he should name the bear, in a low weak voice he simply responded Mr Jordan. I keep Mr. Jordan on a shelf in the family room. When I evacuated for hurricane Ida Mr. Jordan was along for the trip. Two days after being allowed to return, my then eleven year old grandson asked me where was Mr. Jordan. I had not yet unpacked him, and yes of course stories of Mr. Jordan had been shared with him.

Mr. Jordan was and will always be remembered by the lives he touched at that small high school in Norco, Louisiana, before he was the famous Kidd Jordan. Thank you, family for sharing him with us in those early years.

May memories of his beautiful and gifted life give you comfort in these difficult times. May the love of faith and family and friends help to mend your broken hearts.

Gwendolyn Parquet Madere

Gwendolyn Parquet Madere - April 14, 2023 at 01:48 PM

AG

“ In the '70s and '80s I had the pleasure and honor as a young musician of working with Kidd in a variety of big bands and pit-show bands, some of which he'd contracted and led. His professionalism and command of his instruments were models for me, and his skills and kindness in mentoring the upcoming generation were obvious. He performed a wide spectrum of music without prejudice and welcomed others to do so. He was an articulate spokesperson in media interviews regarding music education but also commanded the equally articulate but totally different stage- and street-vocabulary that in part endeared him to his gigging colleagues. Most of all, perhaps, he championed freedom of musical expression and showed the rest of us a clear example of how it could be done. Having lived away from NOLA for 35 years and recently returned, I can say that I have regularly quoted or paraphrased Kidd's words in turn to my own students over the decades. His music will live on; his students will carry on; and his love will shine forward through both. With condolences to his family, Antonio Garcia.

Antonio Garcia - April 13, 2023 at 11:24 PM

RM

“ Ron & Nicole Munoz purchased the Peaceful White Lilies Basket for the family of Edward Kidd Jordan.



Ron & Nicole Munoz - April 13, 2023 at 09:29 AM

FS

“ Fred Singleton lit a candle in memory of Edward Jordan



Fred Singleton - April 13, 2023 at 07:49 AM



“ Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Edward Kidd Jordan.



April 13, 2023 at 01:36 AM

FS

“ Fred Singleton lit a candle in memory of Edward Jordan



Fred Singleton - April 12, 2023 at 11:14 PM

SS

“ Condolences to the Jordan Family. May our Lord & Savior comfort you & grant you Peace through such difficult time. Absent from the body but present with the Lord.
Sherry Cole Sims GOD BLESS YOU

Sherry C Sims - April 12, 2023 at 09:20 PM