



Timmy Ray Turner

May 20, 2022

Timmy Ray Turner was born on September 10, 1958 to Frank Turner, Sr. and Odessa Whitt Turner in Hope, Arkansas. He moved to Memphis, TN with his family at a young age.

He accepted Christ into his life at a young age and was of the Baptist faith. Timmy was educated in the Memphis City Public school system and received both his undergraduate, graduate and doctoral degrees at the University of Memphis in Music Performance. After graduation, he taught in the Memphis City School system for 3 years where he was a high school band director at Manassas and Carver High Schools. He was also the Director of Bands at Morehouse College for 7 years where his band performed for esteemed events. His last position was as Associate Professor, Chairman of the Music Department, and Director of both the jazz and symphonic bands at Xavier University where he established credentials for a recording studio on campus. He held these respective positions for 23 years. His love for music and as an educator inspired him to teach and share his knowledge and skills with the many students whose lives that he touched. His talents also gained the respect of colleagues and peers in the music industry, and afforded him opportunities to perform all over the world with world famous artists.

Timmy departed this earth on May 20, 2022 in New Orleans, LA at the age of 63. He was preceded in death by his father, Frank Turner, Sr.; his mother Odessa Whitt Turner; his eldest brother, Frank Turner, Jr.; and eldest sister, Gertha Cunningham.

He was married from July 1984 – January 2003 to Arveeta Williams Turner. From this union he leaves to cherish his memory three sons – Brandon Turner, 32 of Colorado Springs, CO; Miles Turner, 27 of Atlanta, GA; and Jonathan Turner, 26 of Forney, Texas; and older sister Patsy Walker of Memphis, TN. He also leaves a host of nieces, nephews, relatives and friends, and his expected first grandchild due in August 2022.

Relatives and friends of the family, also members of the Xavier University community are invited to attend a Funeral Service at Xavier University St. Katharine Drexel Chapel, 1 Drexel Drive, New Orleans, LA 70125 on Wednesday, June 1, 2022 at 11:00am. Visitation will start at 9:00am. Arrangements by D. W. Rhodes Funeral Home, 3933 Washington Avenue, New Orleans, LA 70125. Please visit www.rhodesfuneral.com to sign the online guestbook.

Previous Events

Visitation

JUN 1. 9:00 AM - 11:00 AM (CT)

St. Katharine Drexel Chapel of Xavier University
1 Drexel Dr.
New Orleans, LA 70125

Funeral Service

JUN 1. 11:00 AM (CT)

St. Katharine Drexel Chapel of Xavier University
1 Drexel Dr.
New Orleans, LA 70125

Tribute Wall

AP

“ *Much love to Timmy's family. I have nothing but awesome memories of Timmy from University of Memphis Band.*

Andrew Proctor - July 06, 2022 at 02:56 PM

KJ

“ *To the Turner family ,Xavier University of Louisiana Music Department and Xavier University of Louisiana. My thoughts and prayers are with my Xavier Music family.Dr Turner was a great music professor at Xavier and Morehouse. As an Alumni of the Xavier Music Department, it is with deep sorry this is a great professor going home to gone the Heavenly Father. Rest in peace Dr.Turner.*



Kevin Joseph - May 31, 2022 at 07:07 PM

MG

“ *Condolences to the Family. I will cherish many fond memories of my Musical Buddy. R.I.P.*

*Michael "Mr. Jazz" Gourrier
Richmond, VA*

MICHAEL J. GOURRIER - May 30, 2022 at 09:39 PM

JE

“ *Brandon, Miles, Jonathan:*

I was so sorry to hear of your father's passing. He was a treasured colleague in the Music Department at Morehouse College and will be greatly missed. Although you all were still quite young when the family made the move to New Orleans, I remember fondly watching you grow up, and, although I was not able to keep up with you in person after that, I was able to reconnect with your dad on a yearly basis at the NASM national meetings and hear stories about you from a very proud father.

In addition, I was able to watch him nurture the young musicians at Morehouse, several of whom have some rather incredible careers now. He leaves behind many lights that are shining brightly. His love for his students, of course, continued at Xavier. The last communication I had from him was a call informing me of his April jazz band concert to be streamed from Xavier. He was so proud of his group and wanted me to see them in action. Watching that concert provided me with a beautiful farewell.

May you be comforted in this time knowing that he made a difference in the lives of many people, and I am fortunate that I got the opportunity to know him as a colleague.

- Jefferson Ethridge

Jefferson Ethridge - May 28, 2022 at 09:41 PM