

*In Loving Memory Of*



*William Michael Phipps*

*Jazz Saxophonist, Educator, Mentor*

*♪ Last Note: December 3, 2011*

*Services*

*Saturday, December 10, 2011 - 11:00 a.m.*

**Trinity St. Philips Cathedral**

610 Broad Street • Newark, New Jersey

*The Very Rev. Susan Kellar, Officiating*

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*Following the interment at Fairmount Cemetery, a repast will be offered at  
Arts High School Cafeteria, 550 Martin Luther King, Jr. Blvd., Newark, NJ 07102.*

## Obituary

*“When I’m on the bandstand and that downbeat comes,  
there’s nothing wrong in this world.”*



*Bill Phipps*

**William (Bill) Michael Phipps** was born to the late John J. and Frances (O’Loughlin) Phipps. A native of Newark, NJ, his lifelong passion for music, jazz in particular, started at an early age. His musical talents were evident at ages seven and ten, when he began playing the clarinet and then the saxophone. As a pre-teen, Bill studied music with his uncle, a marching band director. He performed with the marching band at Ruppert Stadium (now Bear and Eagles Waterfront Stadium) during Negro Baseball League games. Bill began his formal jazz training with his twin brother, Nathaniel’s (Nat) Big Band.

After serving in the US Army during the Korean War, Bill resumed his formal education, earning a degree in Music Education from New York University and later a Master’s Degree and teaching certification from Jersey City State College.

An educator for many years, Bill’s accomplishments included teaching junior high school in New York City and at Essex County College, where he was a Jazz Artist in Residence and established its jazz orchestra. Later, he was appointed Chairman of Fine Arts, Music, and Foreign Languages at Weequahic High School from which he retired.



Bill was a renowned jazz musician. He performed with numerous luminaries including George Coleman, Wayne Shorter, Dizzy Gillespie, Jack McDuff, Irene Reid, Ray Charles, and James Moody. Bill played at internationally recognized jazz

venues, such as Newport Jazz Festival, as well as smaller jazz clubs throughout the metropolitan area. He performed with various jazz groups throughout his career, more recently as a member of the Newark Jazz Elders. Bill also performed on several recordings. Assisted by his long-time friend, Al Patterson, one of Bill's last musical accomplishments involved a Newark revitalization project developed by Amiri Baraka.

Preserving his St. Kitts family heritage, Bill was an active member of the Sons and Daughters of St. Christopher Benevolent and Charitable Society of NJ, Inc.



Music was not Bill's only interest. He had a continuing desire to learn new things from history to Zoology. He also enjoyed traveling on vacations with his wife, Barbara.

Bill Phipps passed away on Saturday, December 3, 2011. As mentor to many and friend to all, Bill will be greatly missed by his family, fellow musicians, and students.



Bill was the beloved husband of Barbara, who will always cherish their thirty-eight years together; devoted father of Loren (Lori) Phipps-Cadwell and her husband, Thurber J. Cadwell, Victoria Dillard, Rodney Smith and his wife, Deborah Smith, Kyle Bradby, Vincent Wright and his wife, Tina Wright and the late William (Bill) M. Phipps, Jr. and Kurt Bradby; cherished brother of James Caines, Nathaniel (Nat) J. Phipps and his wife, Bertha (Bea) Phipps, George (Herbie) H. Phipps and his wife, Vivian Phipps, Mary (Ilene) I. Baker and the late Willie Caines and Margaret Harris; father-in-law of Misty Morse (who is the mother of Amin Morse and Ashley R. Morse). He is also survived by a host of loving grandchildren, nephews and nieces.

# *The Maestro*

*(Loren Phipps-Cadwell)*

*He played his horn  
without no scorn.  
His passion for life  
was melodic and free.  
He Loved his Music  
with the greatest of ease.  
It helped him to see  
just how much he could please.  
The people gave ear  
to the things he played dear.  
His music inside  
he could not disguise  
because the sound of music is  
within his soul  
to be captured by  
all to behold.*

## **Pall Bearers**

- Otis Brown
- Salvatore Iovinella
- Taheim McCain
- Christopher J. Rowe

## *Acknowledgements*

*The family wishes to express our sincere appreciation for all acts of kindness and love shown to us during our time of sorrow.  
Special Thank You to Al Patterson, Otis and Pamela Brown and Jamene Edwards.*

*Thank you. ~ The Phipps Family*

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*Professional Services Entrusted To  
James E. Churchman Jr. Funeral Home*

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ph (973) 242-8454

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