

CELEBRATING THE LIFE OF

Grachan Moncur, III

SUNRISE

June 3, 1937

SUNSET

June 03, 2022

SUNDAY, JUNE 12, 2022 - 11:00 A.M.

CHURCH OF GOD & SAINTS CHRIST

595 Central Ave, Newark • NJ 07107

Obitu

Grachan Moncur III, departed this life on his 85th birthday. He was born on Thursday, June 3, 1937 and gained his two wings on Friday, June 3, 2022. Grachan was the oldest of three children. He was born in New York, NY to Ella and Grachan II but the robust city of Newark is where he grew up and called home.

As a student Grachan went to Morton Street Grammar School and then attended the Laurinburg Institute in North Carolina, a historically black preparatory school with a renowned music department. Upon graduating he continued his studies at the Manhattan School of Music and the Juilliard Conservatory.

In 1968 Grachan united in holy matrimony with Tamam Tracy. He was the father of seven children. Grachan loved his family and without doubt, cherished his gift of making music. He inherited his musical talent that he so eloquently displayed from his father the late Grachan Moncur II, a jazz bassist who worked with his brother, Al Cooper, leader of the Savoy Sultans. As a child his home was filled with music and musicians. It wasn't uncommon for Sarah Vaughan and other leading musicians to visit the Moncur's residence.

Grachan had a penchant for music which manifested at an early age. While being surrounded with many renowned musical geniuses, Grachan's first instruments, as a young child, were the cello and the piano. However, it was at the age of nine that he discovered his true love for the trombone. His father came home one day with a trombone and presented it to him. His father insisted that he "stay in the books". It became his instrument of choice, the one he chose to love and learn thoroughly the fundamentals of his horn. Eventually he went on to produce the melodic, virtuoso, innovative sounds of the avant-garde with which he is associated.

Grachan became a legendary, established and sought after Jazz player. His resume of music is quite extensive and impressive. In addition to composing, publishing and recording jazz, he played professionally with such prominent professionals Ray Charles, Benny Golson and Art Farmer of the Jazztet, Nat Phipps, Wayne Shorter, Ornette Coleman, saxophonists Hank Crawford and David "Fathead" Newman, and Beaver Harris of the 360 Degree Musical Experience. He also worked with his good friend Amina Baraka and her late husband activist Amiri Baraka in their group "Blue Ark".

Free jazz, and the avant-garde were the genres of music Grachan is credited with having produced and performed. To add to his resume as a trombonist and composer he freelanced in New York where he recorded two Blue Note Albums, titled "Evolution" and "Some Other Stuff." As a leader he went on to record eight more albums; "New Africa", "Aco Dei De Madrugada", "Echoes of Prayer", "Shadows", "Exploration", "Inner Cry Blues", the New Wave in Jazz, and the New Breed. He also contributed his musical geniuses to assist his colleagues in recording their albums.

Grachan's albums are sought after, admired and listened to by young musicians who are in search of new approaches to the basic materials of jazz. The list of impressive jazz artists that Grachan befriended is quite extensive. However, to name a few, he was honored to work with such artists as Ornette Coleman, Albert Ayler, Jackie McClean, Archie Shepp, as well as Dr. Eddie Henderson at the Jazz Onze Festival in Lausanne Switzerland. His talent extended beyond musical instruments.

When James Baldwin's Blues for Mister Charlie, based on the story of the murder of Emmett Till, was produced on Broadway in 1964, Grachan appeared in the cast and contributed a composition to the show.

During the last two decades Grachan remained busy, he taught, appeared as a special guest at clubs such as the Iridium, and the Jazz Standard in New York City. He headlined at the Atlas Theater in Washington, DC with the Brad Linde Octet which featured ten of his compositions from his acclaimed Exploration CD. In November 2019 he took part in the Baltimore Symposium at John Hopkins University featuring the Archie Shepp Band discussing their Algiers experience which included a concert. His last live performance was in 2020 playing with a hard bop saxophonist and flutist, named Rene' McLean.

Grachan's talent didn't go unnoticed. He was the first jazz artist that received the Mason Gross award in 1980 from the New Jersey State Council of the Arts. Grachan took delight in being a part of the Rutgers Institute of Jazz Studies Summer Series in 2007. As a result of his talent and perseverance he was awarded a ten year residency as a "Composer in Residence" at the Newark Community School of the Arts, and at that time it was the largest community arts school in New Jersey.

He is survived by his wife, Tamam Tracy; five children, two daughters, Ella and Vera-Cherie, three sons, Grachan IV (Khalilah), Kenya (Taniesha), and Adrien; twin brothers, Lofton (Pat) and Lonnie (JoAnn); eight grandchildren, Troy, Donald, Tanaya, Kenya II, Cherie, Kai, Charlie and Ella-Grace; four great grandchildren, and a host of nieces, nephews, cousins, and friends. Grachan was predeceased by his son Toih, daughter Hilda, and granddaughter, Kelly.

Lastly, but certainly not least, as Grachan Moncur III, with his larger than life persona and trombonist trademark, soars high in the sky on his way to that heavenly band he bequeaths his favorite saying to be used whenever you need to feel his presence "You Dig".



Funeral

Processional	On that Resurrection Morning
Master of Ceremony	Deacon Kenya Moncur
Prayer	Deacon Mark Harris
Scripture Readings	
Old Testament - Psalm 23	
New Testament - I Cor.15:41-58	
Song	“Choir”
Music Tribute.....	Bradford Hayes Ensemble
New Africa - Poem	Kenya Moncur II
Hipnosis - Poem	Vera- Cherie Moncur
Song	“When” St. Ebony Baskin
Resolution	Bencilla Powell
Proclamation & Letter from the City of Newark	
Cards & Condolences	St. Charesse Barrett
Music Tribute.....	Bradford Hayes Ensemble
Reflections - Family & Friends.....	2 minutes please
Obituary	Alycia Banks
Song	“Choir”
Eulogy.....	Evangelist-at- Large Isaac W. Artis, Jr.
Viewing.....	Bradford Hayes Ensemble
Recessional - Repast	

Inter

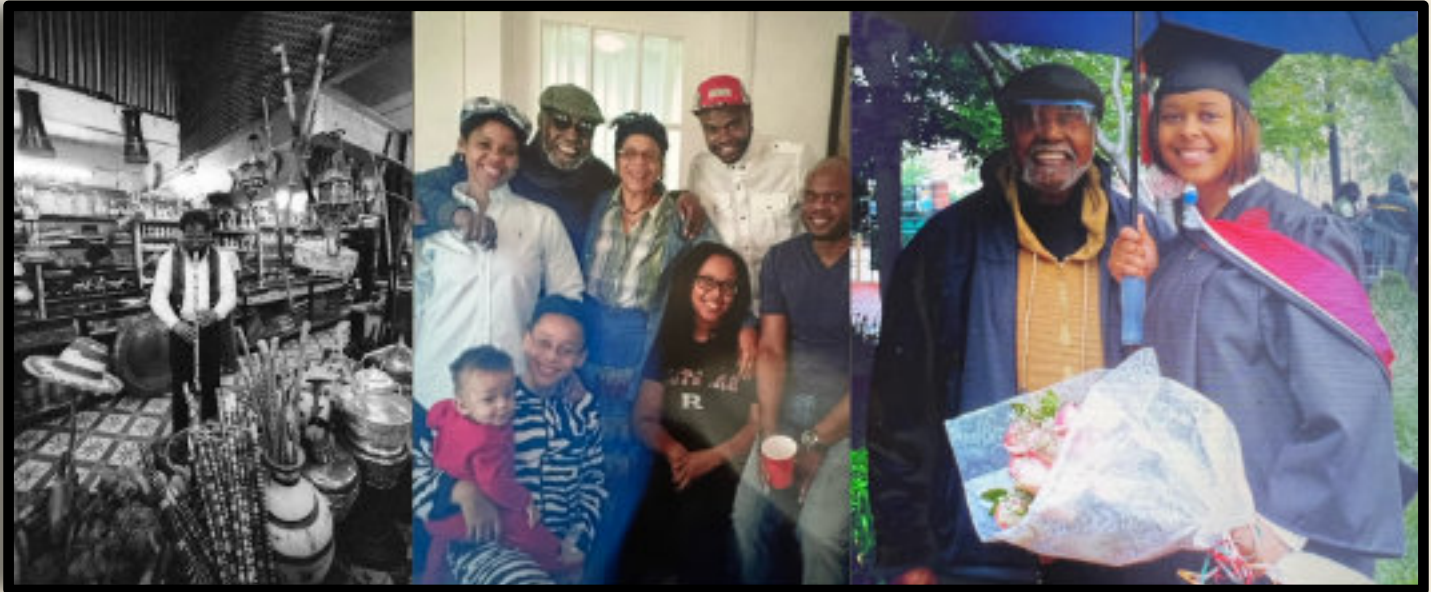
MONDAY, JUNE 14 - 10:00 AM
Fairmount Cemetery • Newark, NJ



precious Memories







New Africa

New Africa is a place in our minds. That floats free through wide open spaces. Then runs along the river Nile

Stops and plays awhile with lions and kings. And then sits at the feet of Shaka Zulu learning all about who we are. Never straying far from the love of our people

New Africa is the motherland of our past. Invaded by ships with masts and sails billowing in the wind. With pale men on board. That came disguised as friends.

Yet in the end steal our past. Our present and our future. New Africa is the blues 7th. Riding the slave waves to America

Then sold Beaten, Knocked down, Kicked around in the cotton fields. To produce a new blue sound

New Africa is the field holler. The blues Spiritual Looking afar to the North Star. On the slim hopes of reaching the Promised Land

New Africa is jazz standing on a mountain top, Improvising on dreams of freedom through out a land. Where black music reign supreme. Soothing the souls of the inhabitants

Tamam Tracy Moncur

Acknowledgment

The family wishes to thank all of you for your prayers, messages of comfort and the many other acts of kindness shown during our hour of bereavement. May God continue to bless you in a very special way.

www.honoryou.com



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

345 13th Avenue • Newark, New Jersey

PH (973) 242-8454

WWW.CHURCHMANFUNERALHOME.COM