

ALFA ANDERSON (Sep. 7, 1946 – Dec. 17, 2024) The vocalist, mostly known for her work with popular '70s disco band Chic, died at 78. She made her professional debut on Cannonball Adderley's *Big Man* (1976) and appeared in the Lincoln Center production of *Children of the Fire*, scored by trumpeter "Hannibal" Marvin Peterson. Other credits include recordings with Nat Adderley, Ray Barretto, Odyssey and Jay Hoggard.

DANNY BACHER (Jan. 15, 1978 – Dec. 16, 2024) The soprano saxophonist, songwriter, vocalist and entertainer, died at home in Clifton, NJ, from a heart attack at age 46. He also worked in acting, theater improv, magic and puppetry and was an authority on Laurel and Hardy, owning a major memorabilia collection (he co-authored *Collecting Laurel and Hardy*). His albums include *Swing That Music!* and *Still Happy* and he was featured on the Terry Gibbs Legacy Band's *92 Years Young* (Whaling City Sound, 2022). Bacher had just joined the Royal Bopsters before his passing. Credits include Nicole Zuraitis, Roseanne Vitro, Warren Vaché, Houston Person, Cyrille Aimée, Harry Allen, Vince Giordano and others.

TONY BANDA (May 1956 – Dec. 15, 2024) Born and raised in L.A., the bassist died at age 58. Brother to drummer Ramon Banda (with whom he co-led a 2003 album), he was a longtime accompanist to Poncho Sanchez and also worked with José Rizo, Francisco Aguabella, Joey and "Papa" John DeFrancesco, among others.

BOB BERTLES (Mar. 1939 – Dec. 30, 2024) The self-taught Australian saxophonist died at age 85. In the '50s-early '60s he was a member of the developing modern jazz scene. He played in Ian Carr's Nucleus, and also worked with Neil Ardley, Bruce Cale, Ray McKinley, John Pochée and others.

ROLAND BOURGEOIS (1953 -Dec. 22, 2024) The Canadian trumpeter (and concert producer) passed away at his family home at age 71. He spent 39 years as a music teacher and released three albums as a leader.

MIKE CAMPBELL (Feb. 1, 1950 – Dec. 29, 2024) The singer passed away due to a stroke, at age 74. In addition to providing vocals on several movie soundtracks, radio, television and commercials, he taught at Musicians Institute in Hollywood and at the Grove School of Music. He performed with Sarah Vaughan, Tuck & Patti, Henry Mancini, Nancy Wilson, Ella Fitzgerald, Count Basie and Benny Carter, and recorded with Donald Byrd and Moacir Santos, among others. Campbell recorded eight albums on labels such as Palo Alto, Audiophile and ITI.

WILLIAM "BILL" CARTER (Dec. 25, 1934 – Jan. 1, 2025) The internationally noted photographer, writer and editor died in Oakland, CA, a week shy of turning 91. His work included the book *Preservation Hall: Music from the Heart*. Carter was also a clarinetist who led his own groups and was a member of Turk Murphy's band in the '50s and later the Magnolia Jazz Band and Hot Club of San Francisco. From 1990-2015 he served as Chairman of the San Francisco Traditional Jazz Foundation.

STANISŁAW CIEŚLAK (Oct. 30, 1943 – Dec. 18, 2024) The Polish trombonist and pianist died in Stockholm, Sweden (where he had been living since 1976) at age 81. A versatile player, at home in classical, modern jazz, dixieland and pop genres, he was a member of the Stodoła Big-Band and Studio Jazzowe Polskiego Radia and had credits with the Novi Singers, Zbigniew Namysłowski, Bernt Rosengren, Per Henrik Wallin and others.

JOEL FORBES (1956 – Dec. 27, 2024) The bassist died at age 68 after a long battle with Multiple Sclerosis. He recorded with Dan Barrett, Wayne Escoffery, Harry Allen, Grant Stewart, Frank Vignola, Ehud Asherie, Dick Hyman, Ken Peplowski, Ralph Lalama and others.

JOHN "PRINCE" GILBERT (Nov. 2, 1958 – Dec. 15, 2024) The saxophonist and New Orleans native died at 66. A brass band specialist, Gilbert was a member of the Treme Brass Band at his passing. He was an original member of the Rebirth Brass Band, and a member of the Hot 8 and New Birth Brass Bands.

NIKKI GIOVANNI (Jun. 7, 1943 – Dec. 9, 2024) Born Yolande Cornelia "Nikki" Giovanni Jr., the poet, writer, commentator, activist and educator died in hospital in Virginia from complications of lung cancer at age 81. She received numerous awards and held 27 honorary degrees from various colleges and universities. Giovanni taught at several universities, the last of them, Virginia Tech. Her lyrics were sung by Dianne Reeves and Leena Conquest, among others, and she recently collaborated with Javon Jackson on the album *The Gospel According to Nikki Giovanni* (Solid Jackson/Palmetto, 2022).

ZAKIR HUSSAIN (Mar. 9, 1951 – Dec. 15, 2024) The Indian tabla master and educator died in San Francisco at 73. His influence over five decades helped shape world music, most notably through his 50-year partnership with guitarist John McLaughlin in their group Shakti, which recently won a 2024 Grammy Award for Best Global Music Album (*This Moment*). Hussain was also a member of Yo-Yo Ma's Silk Road Ensemble and worked with Charles Lloyd, Béla Fleck, Mickey Hart, Jan Garbarek, Bill Laswell, Pharoah Sanders, Pat Martino, Joe Zawinul, Dave Holland and others. He also appeared on albums with George Harrison, Van Morrison, Jack Bruce, Kronos Quartet, Wadada Leo Smith and others.

PETER LEITCH (Aug. 19, 1944 – Dec. 30, 2024) The Canadian-born guitarist died at age 80. Two of his albums garnered Juno (Canada's Grammy) nominations. After settling in NYC in 1983, he went on to make 18 more recordings as a leader. A long and impressive list of collaborators includes bassists Art Davis, Ray Drummond, Rufus Reid, Neil Swainson and David Williams, and drummers Terry Clarke, Billy Hart, Billy Higgins, Marvin "Smitty" Smith and Freddie Waits, among many others. His final recording was *Landscape* (Jazz House, 2014) after which he gave up the guitar to compose and orchestrate. In addition to Jazz House, he recorded for Uptown, Criss Cross, Reservoir, Concord and Justin Time and has credits with Sadik Hakim, Al Grey/Jimmy Forrest, Oscar Peterson, Woody Shaw, Jaki Byard, Dominique Eade, Pete Yellin and others.

GEORGE "DOC" MANNING (Jul. 11, 1950 – Dec. 24, 2024) A familiar voice and presence on Baltimore's jazz scene, Manning died of heart failure at age 74. For nearly three decades, he hosted a weekly jazz show on Morgan State University's radio station, WEEA.

LLOYD MILLER (1938 – Dec. 27, 2024) The multi-instrumentalist died at age 86. Miller was a scholar of Persian music with a doctorate in Middle East studies. Also known as Kurosh Ali Khan, he played multiple instruments across numerous jazz, ethnic and world music traditions. Miller had early credits with Jef Gilson and albums on his own East-West, World Arts and Strut.

LARS MARTIN MYHRE (Aug. 10, 1956 – Dec. 28, 2024) The Norwegian composer, guitarist, pianist,

singer and record producer passed away at age 68 in Sandefjord. Founder of the Slagen Big Band, he was best known for his collaboration with Odd Børretzen. He also composed film music, musicals and theater music.

GÖRAN ÖSTLING (Apr. 6, 1940 – Dec. 31, 2024) The Swedish saxophonist-flutist died at age 84. He led the Boplovers and had credits with Idrees Sulieman, Lars Werner and others.

RICHARD PARSONS (Apr. 4, 1948 – Dec. 26, 2024) The jazz-loving entrepreneur died at his home in NYC of cancer at age 76. His business interests and deals at the highest echelons were many. He was responsible for the rebirth of Minton's Playhouse in Harlem and sat on the boards of the Jazz Foundation of America and the Apollo Theater.

BARRE PHILLIPS (Oct. 27, 1934 – Dec. 28, 2024) A presence in the European jazz avant garde for more than 50 years, San Francisco-born bassist Phillips died at age 90. He championed the bass as a solo instrument in concerts and on recordings. His collaborators included fellow bassists Dave Holland, Barry Guy, Palle Danielsson, Peter Kowald, Joëlle Léandre, Bertram Turetzky, William Parker and Mark Dresser, among others, with albums on Opus One, ECM, JAPO, émouvance, gligg and Les Disques VICTO.

ANTHONY PINCIOTTI (Jul. 20, 1975 – Dec. 24, 2024) The Toledo native, who became a key part of the Chicago then NYC jazz scenes, died at age 49. As a teen he played Rusty's Jazz Café with Toledo jazz luminaries. In Chicago he played with James Moody, Lynne Arriale and Dr. Lonnie Smith. His credits include work with Alexis Cole, Spike Wilner, Jonathan Kreisberg, Jeremy Steig, Giovanni Tommaso, Vic Juris, David Schnitter, Brian Charette, George Mraz, Mark Soskin, Anat Cohen, Mike Richmond, Ralph Moore and Stacey Kent, among others.

MARCELLO ROSA (Jun. 16, 1935 – Dec. 19, 2024) The Italian trombonist and arranger died in Rome at age 89. He was former president of the Italian jazz musicians' association *Associazione Nazionale Musicisti Jazz* and initially a member of the New Orleans Jazz Band, with whom he recorded several albums in the late '50s. He recorded for such labels as Ricordi, Horo, King Universal and Philology.

HISATSUGU SUZUKI (Nov. 22, 1972 – Dec. 28, 2024) The Osaka-born composer, pianist and saxophonist died at age 52. A saxophone professor at Osaka College of Music, he recorded one album on Vap and four on T5Jazz.

GEORGE THATCHER (? – Dec. 29, 2024) Primarily a bass trombonist, the freelancer died of a heart attack in L.A. He was also a symphonic musician, played over a number of genres and sang as well as produced. He recorded for motion pictures and had many credits including recordings by Norman Connors, Gene Harris, Sonny Criss, Kyle Eastwood, Brad Mehldau, Diana Krall and Terence Blanchard.

JACK THORNCRAFT (Jul. 13, 1943 – Dec. 10, 2024) The first-call Australian bassist died in Sydney at age 81. He worked in contemporary jazz and cabaret, playing with James Morrison, Don Burrows, Ernie Watts and Barney Kessel, among others.

CHUCK YATES (Feb. 4, 1936 – Dec. 18, 2024) The Australian jazz pianist, accompanist and teacher died at age 88. He had a long residency at Sydney's Bald Faced Stag Hotel among other gigs and was rooted in the bop tradition. Yates worked with Johnny Nicol, Errol Buddle, Bernie McGann and others.