



*In Loving Memory of*  
**Wade Edward Barnes**

*Sunrise*  
August 15, 1954

*Sunset*  
March 3, 2012

Service  
Friday, March 9, 2012 - 6:00 p.m.

**UNITY FUNERAL CHAPELS, INC.**

2352 8th Avenue  
New York, New York 10027

*Rev. Dr. Edward R. Culvert, Officiating*

## *Obituary*

**Wade E. Barnes**, the beloved son of the late Mr. C. Edward Barnes and Mrs. Grace Barnes, was born in Brooklyn, New York on August 15, 1954. He was the third of four children (Gregory, Laura, Wade and Stacey). Wade grew up in Brooklyn and graduated from Sheepshead Bay High School. In 1978, Wade married Lori DeCarlo and from that union, their daughter, Naima Ayo was born. They divorced in 1985.

Wade earned a Master of Arts, in Music from Vermont College at Norwich University, a Bachelor of Arts in Music from Empire State College and a Bachelor of Arts Degree in History from Queens College.

At the age of fifteen, Wade embarked on a musical odyssey that spanned forty-two years. His passion, perseverance and laser-focused determination never wavered. His mentor, William "Beaver" Harris, the renowned avant garde jazz musician, nurtured and guided Wade during his formative musical years. Wade taught music in the New York City School system early in his career which helped fuel his two lifelong passions of music and education, which were the transformative forces in Wade's life.

Wade's extensive career has been captured, critiqued and reviewed by many. Some of his most notable reviews are: Called, "The Future of Bebop" (House of Blues, Review May 5, 2000), Wade Barnes is certainly considered by many to be one of the great drummers, and composers on the jazz scene today. The Albany Times Union stated about his appearance at the 1997 Saratoga Jazz Festival, "Mr. Barnes has developed into a premier drummer, composer and educator."

After years of informal study, while performing since a teenager in NYC, Wade Barnes has facilitated a holistic conception which incorporates the entire history of American music. Mr. Barnes' knowledge of social and musical history as well as pedagogy has allowed him to create an extremely successful innovative, interdisciplinary, and interactive program called, "The Charles Evans Music Initiative, In New Orleans, featuring Wade Barnes and Unit Structures." This effort, as well as his other music education and community activities, has made Mr. Barnes a leader in the field of "teaching artist."

Drummers, who were born in the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries such as Cornelius Tillman, Buddy Gilmore, Paul Barbarin, Baby Dodds and Chick Webb, have been extremely influential. Notwithstanding, Wade Barnes is commonly recognized as extending the tradition of the drums, pioneered by drummers Kenny Clarke, Max Roach, 'Philly' Joe Jones, Roy Haynes, Elvin Jones, Tony Williams and William 'Beaver' Harris. It has been stated, by many, that Mr. Barnes has the "swing of Philly Joe Jones and the technique of Buddy Rich." Although all the musicians stated above have been profound influences, Wade Barnes has incorporated the ideas of these and others, to fashion his very distinct personal sound.

Wade was the director, principal composer and arranger, of The Brooklyn Repertory Ensemble, a seventeen member ensemble, noted for its unique sound. In addition, he led smaller ensembles. Two of his other regular working bands were: "The Bottom Line" and "Unit Structures." In recent years he also directed "The Word On The Street Ensemble" in partnership with the Jazz Foundation of America. Wade also, performed with: "Doc" Cheatham; Earle Warren; Dicky Wells; Howard McGhee; Cecil Payne; Leonard Gaskin; Joe Knight; Franklin Skeets; Candido; Albert Dailey; Billy Mitchell; Benny Powell; Jimmy Garrison; Bob Cranshaw; Archie Shepp; George Coleman; James Spaulding; Sonny Fortune; Jon Faddis among others.

Wade performed in venues such as: The Smithsonian Institute; The JVC Festival (in New York City and Saratoga Springs, NY); Sweet Basil, Slug's Saloon, The Village Vanguard, Small's; Fat Cat; and The Iridium New York City; Larry's Hideaway, Toronto; The Rising Sun, Montreal; The Louisiana State Museum, Snug Harbor, Satchmo Summer Fest and the New Orleans Jazz Celebration Club Strut, Tiptina's, Ashe Cultural Arts Center, in New Orleans.

His discography includes: Pragmatic Optimism, The Brooklyn Repertory Ensemble (360 Records); Passport To Brooklyn, The Brooklyn Repertory Ensemble (Progressive Records); the Brooklyn Four Plus One, (Progressive Records); The Sounds...They Show Us, The Wade Barnes Septet (360 Records); Bridgin' The Gap, The Brooklyn Conservatory Faculty Jazz Ensemble (360 Records); Deane's Basics, Deane and The Jazz Masters (Progressive Records); In Your Eyes, Linda Presgrave (Metropolitan Records); Wild As The Wind, Pucci Amanda Jhones (CIMP Records); Fantasy For Orchestra, The Universal Jazz Symphonette (Independent).

Wade founded a nonprofit organization in December of 2000, "The Brooklyn Four Plus One, Inc.", which was awarded grants to conduct education programs from: The Charles Evans Foundation; The New York City Council and The Department of Cultural Affairs; Brooklyn Arts Council; The Music Performance Trust Fund; The Vermont Arts Council; Vermont College; New England Life; and The Jazz Foundation Of America. These grants were awarded to The Brooklyn Four Plus One Inc. in order to administer music education programs created by Wade Barnes.

In July, 2008, Wade Barnes and Unit Structures: presented innovative music workshops and education partnerships with: Louisiana State Museum and the Recovery School District for New Orleans Public School students (This program was conducted again in 2009 and 2011 with sponsorship by the Charles Evans Foundation); and the summer CAMP program in Marathon, Florida. From 2001 until his death, as director of The Brooklyn Repertory Ensemble, Wade created clinics, workshops and curricula for The New York City Public Schools.

Additionally, in 1997, Wade was commissioned by Meet the Composer to compose, "From Slavery to Freedom," a suite dedicated to the noted historian John Hope Franklin. On the CD, "The Sounds...They Show Us" the ensemble expounds on the suite of six tunes Wade wrote while still a teenager. The final tune on the CD, "A Little Joy...A little Sadness" was written in dedication to his father.

Every year on the Saturday before Thanksgiving the Von King Art and Recreation Center provides free meals for the community. The event is called "Each One Feed One." Wade and the Brooklyn Repertory Ensemble, conducted free concerts to coincide with this event.

Wade's last and most favorite endeavor was to partner with Brownsville Heritage House in Brooklyn, home of the oldest children's library in the country. Brownsville Heritage House functions as a library/multicultural center and is also home to a treasured collection of African-American artifacts. This partnership would provide music education for the children in the community, community outreach highlighting the library services available at Brownsville Heritage House, and at the completion of each program every child would receive a library card.

On March 3, 2012, our beloved Wade E. Barnes transitioned from one existence to another as was his Yoruba belief. Wade is survived by: his daughter, Naima; his mother, Grace; his sisters, Laura and brother-in-law, Carlos and Stacey; his niece and goddaughter, Brooke; his nieces, Aja and Kemba; his nephews, Carlos, Keith and Gregory; grandnephews, grandnieces; and a host of other family members and friends.

Wade's music will live forever in our hearts. Rest in peace.

# Order of Service

Selection ..... Kurt Elling - Nature Boy - Jazz and Orchestra

Scripture - 2 Corinthians Chapter 5:1-10 ..... Brooke Beltran

Scripture - 1 Corinthians 4-7 ..... Lori Regan

Prayer

Selection ..... Charlie Parker - "Take Five"

Remarks ..... Phil Schaap - Jazz Curator at Lincoln Center/ Friend

Remarks ..... Open to public

Obituary ..... Andrea Duplesis - Business Partner  
(Brooklyn Four Plus one)/Best Friend

Short film ..... A Day In The Life of Wade E. Barnes

Eulogy ..... Naima Barnes

Scripture - Romans 9:31-39 ..... Aja Barnes -Tittle

Selection ..... Musical Tribute by band members & friends

Committal ..... Minister

Viewing

Recessional ..... Cece Winans - "Don't Cry For Me"

## **Interment**

Pinelawn Memorial Park  
Pinelawn, New York

## *If Tomorrow Starts Without Me*

If tomorrow starts without me, and I'm not there to see.  
If the sun should rise and find your eyes all filled with tears for me  
I wish so much you wouldn't cry the way you did today.  
While thinking of the many things we didn't get to say.  
I know how much you love me, As much as I love you,  
and each time that you think of me, I know you'll miss me too;  
But when tomorrow starts without me, Please try to understand,  
that an angel came and called my name, And took me by the hand  
And said my place was ready, in heaven far above,  
And that I'd have to leave behind all those I dearly love.  
But as I turned to walk away, A tear fell from my eye,  
For all my life, I'd always thought, I didn't want to die.  
I had so much to live for, So much left yet to do,  
it seemed almost impossible, that I was leaving you.  
I thought of all the yesterdays, the good ones and the bad,  
I thought of all that we had shared, and all the fun we had.  
If I could relive yesterday, just even for a while,  
I'd say good-bye and kiss you and maybe see you smile.  
But then I fully realized, that this could never be,  
for emptiness and memories, would take the place of me.  
And when I thought of worldly things, I might miss come tomorrow,  
I thought of you, and when I did, my heart was filled with sorrow.  
But when I walked through heaven's gates, I felt so much at home.  
When God looked down and smiled at me, From His great golden throne,  
He said, "This is eternity, and all I've promised you."  
Today your life on earth is past, but here life starts anew.  
I promise no tomorrow, but today will always last,  
and since each day is the same way, there's no longing for the past.  
You have been so faithful, so trusting and so true.  
Though there were times you did some things, you knew you shouldn't do.  
But you have been forgiven, and now at last you're free.  
So won't you come and take my hand, and share my life with me  
So when tomorrow starts without me, don't think we're far apart,  
for every time you think of me, I'm right here, in your heart.

- Author Unknown

### *Acknowledgement*

The family wishes to express their deep appreciation  
and sincere thanks for your kindness during a time of sorrow.



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*Clifford V. James, V.P. & Gen. Mgr.*

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