



John Russell Trudell

May 11, 1939 - May 29, 2021

TRUDELL, JOHN R. Age 82 May 29, 2021. Beloved husband of Beverly, the late Loanne & the late Sharon. Loving father of Michael Trudell, Steven (Gina Corso) Trudell, Michelle Trudell & Jeff (Catherine Thomas) Trudell. Dearest grandfather of Christopher, Sean and Tony. Dear brother of Peter (Pat) Trudell. Johnny was the founder and orchestra leader of the Johnny Trudell Orchestra. He was also a member of the American Federation of Musicians Local 5, a contractor for the Fox Theatre and a Motown Trumpeter. Visitation Wednesday 3-9pm at Wujek-Calcaterra & Sons 36900 Schoenherr at Metro Parkway (16 Mile). Funeral Thursday Instate 9:30am at St. Kieran Church 53600 Mound Rd. (btw. 24 & 25 Mile Rds.) until time of Mass at 10:00am. Private Interment West Berlin Cemetery. Share memories with the family at their "On Line Guest Book" @ WujekCalcaterra.com

Cemetery Details

Berlin Cemetery West

905 Holmes Road
West Berlin Cemetery (Berlin Township
Cemetery)
Allenton, MI 48002

Previous Events

Visitation

JUN 2. 3:00 PM - 9:00 PM (ET)

Wujek - Calcaterra & Sons Inc - Sterling
36900 SCHOENHERR RD
Sterling Heights, MI 48312

Instate / Funeral Mass

JUN 3. 9:30 AM - 10:00 AM (ET)

St. Kieran
53600 Mound
Shelby Twp., MI 48316

Tribute Wall

WW

“ Through a coincidence of having recently heard a singer that had appeared with his orchestra, my wife and I found out about John having had his orchestra which we did not know about since we have lived in St. Louis and Chicago area for the last 35 years. So we are saddened upon finding of his passing. I knew John from about 1952 or 53 when we played in the Detroit Parks and Recreation Boys Band and then we were in the Cass Tech High School Bands and took trumpet lessons at Grinnel's Music Store and he and I and his female friend used to walk down the hallway at Cass as a constant threesome and when my wife and I had seats at football games near where his band was playing I had a few chances to holler and get to wave at him at the football games. Cass Tech was a place where many great musicians played and he was one of the greatest and so we are saddened by his loss.

Wynell Whitmore - March 30, 2022 at 10:39 PM

JC

“ Mr T was a legend in Detroit. A world class incredible musician. Working with him was always a learning experience. My sincere condolences to his family...

Joe J Chila - June 06, 2021 at 10:45 PM

JS

“ When I moved to Detroit in 1972, John asked me join the house band at The Michigan Palace. It gave me the opportunity to quickly establish myself with the city's incredible music community and opened many doors. I so appreciate the things I learned under his leadership - things I continue to use to this day. I loved him very much. He will be greatly missed.

I send my best wishes and condolences to his family.

-JEFF STEINBERG

Jeff Steinberg - June 03, 2021 at 10:42 AM

 Bill Barbour

“ Johnny meant so much to me. He gave me a chance when I had just come off the road. He was an inspiration, a great musician, a leader, a mentor. He was a giant in Detroit music, from jazz to Motown and back.

I will never forget the many gigs we played and the beautiful sounds of his trumpet and flugelhorn, from strong lead to soft lyrical playing. Most of all, though, I'll remember what a kind man he was and how he cared about musicians.

I wish my deepest condolences to his family.

Bill Barbour - June 02, 2021 at 10:03 PM

CD

“ Played at my wedding and made the event memorable, will be missed!

Charles G Colombo M. D. - June 02, 2021 at 05:31 PM

JF

“ My deepest condolences to the Family of John Trudell. As a young girl, I was provided an opportunity to sing in his orchestra both locally and nationally. John was "instrumental" in my learning big band standards, and sing them as they were written. <3



"Oh heart, if one should say to you that the soul perishes like the body, answer that the flower withers, but the seed remains." —
Kahlil Gibran

Janice Franco - June 02, 2021 at 05:06 PM

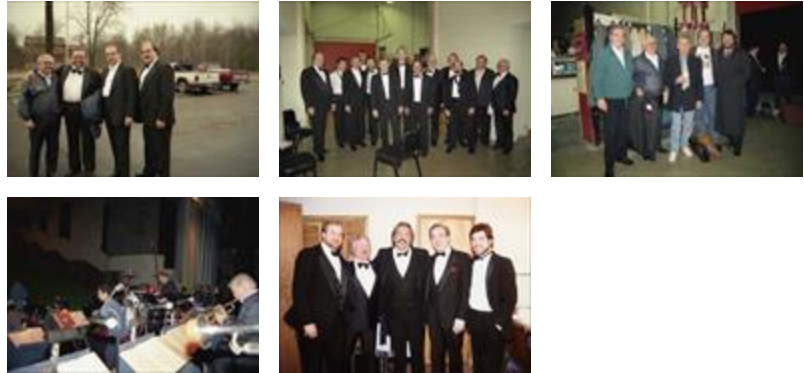
VK

“ Johnny Trudel was special to me. When I graduated from Berklee, and returned to Detroit, Johnny bought my first professional arrangement. He always gave me straight and fatherly advice. One I remember well. He said, “ Son, come over here , I have something tell you. You can’t buy class. You either have it or don’t. Watch who you associate with. There are a lot phonies out there. You deserve better. I wouldn’t tell you this, if I wasn’t concerned for you. What ever you do, get paid, because you’re worth it! “ That meant the world to me. Mr. John Trudel will always be remembered for being a straight shooter, and for real. My condolences to his family.
Sincerely, Vaughn Klugh.

Vaughn Klugh - June 02, 2021 at 03:16 PM

RO

“ 5 files added to the album Memories Album



Ray Oset - June 02, 2021 at 03:03 PM



“ Memories of our friend.
From Top Hat John and Victoria
<https://m.youtube.com/watch?v=JMhaLsMGg0w>

Victoria Mobley - June 02, 2021 at 12:23 PM



“ Johnny you will be missed. God now has a trumpet player. Top Hat John and Victoria



Victoria Mobley - June 02, 2021 at 12:21 PM

LH

“ *The music world remains continually appreciative of the tremendous commitment of Johnny Trudell to the Michigan Jazz Festival. He showed us how being a volunteer benefits so many. I did not know John Trudell, but his commitment to good music is something that I do know and for which I am grateful. The sounds of his tremendous band have surely left a lasting impression for those who were blessed to hear it. May his legacy of music forever be enjoyed and his commitment to it be passed to others. Lynne Henry and The Swing Shift Orchestra*

Lynne Henry - June 02, 2021 at 10:46 AM

KJ

“ *Kim and Joe Jennings purchased the Serene Retreat for the family of John Russell Trudell.*



Kim and Joe Jennings - June 02, 2021 at 09:12 AM

RC

“ *I was honored whenever Johnny asked me to sing with his band/orchestra., I will miss this kind and talented man and all he brought to the music he directed and played. He will be missed and remembered. 🎺*

Ramona Collins - June 02, 2021 at 03:25 AM

SC

“ How sorry I am to hear of Johnny's passing. I met him a couple of times with my brother Bill Cairo who was part of the orchestra and most recently at his funeral. Top notch musicians taken too soon. My condolences to the family and to find strength during this time of sorrow.

RIP Johnny

RIP Johnny.

Susan Cairo Chhatlani - June 02, 2021 at 12:47 AM

JS

“ My Family and I have been following Johnny since the early 60's, when he played with his own Groups, including Full Orchestras, leading Bands for Hundreds of Celebrity Talents when they played in Detroit, playing his horn in other Orchestras, and accompanying other local talents, as well as MOTOWN, and many, many JAZZ greats, including Jack Brokenshaw ,Matt Michaels, Ursula Walker, and on/and/on. My Brother, Bobby Allen, sang with John for many years, and Brokenshaw and John wrote and arranged for many of my Advertising accounts and Trade shows for years. Late nights at the Kansas City Steak House's lower level were nights to remember, for "EVERYONE" sat in one time or another. I will never forget John's Friendship and HELP, right up to the regular gigs at The Rec-Bowl, SHIELDS' and a zillion private parties. GOD BLESS MY FRIEND JOHN, and his remaining Family. KEEP "BLOWIN" IN HEAVEN JOHN.....Jimmy Maniere

James L. Maniere, Sr. - June 01, 2021 at 06:10 PM

GH

“ *What wonderful memories I have of our times together "back in the day" when I was as entertainer in Detroit back in the 60's 70's. Had the privilege of working with John many times and as we all know, what a tremendous talent. He was one of the best! Loved working with him along with Chuck Robinett, Chet Forest, Dave Van de Pitte, Angelo Carlisi and many, many others "back in the day." I live in Colorado now and regret that I cannot get there for his service. However my sincere condolences & prayers to his family as they navigate these difficult days ahead. Dr. Gary Haines, National Public Relations Representative for Nazarene Bible College.*

GARY HAINES - June 01, 2021 at 04:02 PM

GT

“ *George and Linda Troia purchased the Heavenly and Harmony for the family of John Russell Trudell.*



George and Linda Troia - June 01, 2021 at 10:26 AM

AZ

“ At age 17, I was invited to play trombone with the Brookside Jazz Ensemble led by Craig Strain. This was an awesome new world to become a part of. The players were incredible and live music was at it's peak.. The Austin-Moro band was kicking and swinging. It was during that period that I learned about a man named Johnny Trudell.

Who was this guy? He was the big fish in the pond! A major contractor and promoter of live music in the entire metropolitan Detroit area. He was an awesome Trumpet player and as a band leader, he ran a tight ship. He knew all the big stars and was personal friends of Doc Severenson, Carl Fontana, and many more. He was known throughout the United States.

I don't remember the where, what and when, of the first gig that I played with Johnny, but I'm sure I was nervous! As the years went by, I played many top notch shows with Johnny. As you can imagine, there was some hang time at the bar after many of the shows. I heard more stories than Carter had pills. He would talk about Motown, radio shows that he played on and some of the stars that he worked with. I learned about where he grew up and many stories about his life. What an interesting man.

I am now 65 years of age. My head is full of memories of the great musicians that I was blessed to work with through the years. The legacy of Johnny Trudell will live on. My condolences to his family, and to all that knew him!

Al Zerba

Al Zerba - June 01, 2021 at 09:29 AM



“ *Beautiful Dreams was purchased for the family of John Russell Trudell.*



May 31, 2021 at 10:27 PM



“ *While I was still a senior at Cass Tech I joined the "Johnny Trudell - Johnny Wallace Big Band" which rehearsed on Sunday mornings at "Sammy G's" night club. It was a Maynard-style group and I was in over my head then but John always encouraged me. Over the next 60 years I was fortunate to play with him in bands and in recording sessions and I learned so much from him about music and the music business - they are not the same and he was a master at both.*

Thankful he was in my life.

Lanny Austin

Lanny Austin - May 31, 2021 at 12:48 PM



“ *I remember John from when we played beside each other in the Cass Tech Concert Band. John was already a consummate musician. I am so sorry for his loss. My deepest regards to his family.*



Stan Evers, class of 1959 Cass Tech - May 31, 2021 at 10:58 AM



“ *John was a great musician and respected colleague. Condolences to Jeff, Steve and the entire family. Speaking as a trumpet player Johnny was the strongest and most talented trumpet player I have ever known. Everyone moved over for Mr. Trudell.*

*Rest in Peace
Gordon Stump
President Emeritus, Detroit Federation of Musicians, Local 5*

Gordon Stump - May 31, 2021 at 08:39 AM

QU

“ *Johnny hired me to co front his jazz orchestra with Bart Fiori in the 80's
He was a fantastic mentor and hard teacher and I'm forever grateful for that
So many great memories of the jazz family within that band
Bus tours, laughs, great charts played and events I'll never forget..
Thank You JT for the all the music you brought to the community at large ... May your legacy live on*

Queeny - May 30, 2021 at 08:45 PM



“ *Johnny Trudell was old school class act in every way. I always knew I was in good hands when he contracted for me. I came through Detroit with several Broadway shows and he never disappointed. Putting business aside, the man was a gentlemen/s gentleman.
There was no other when he played trumpet.
He will be missed and I send my humble appreciation to him even now.*

Michael Horsley

Michael Horsley - May 30, 2021 at 07:51 PM