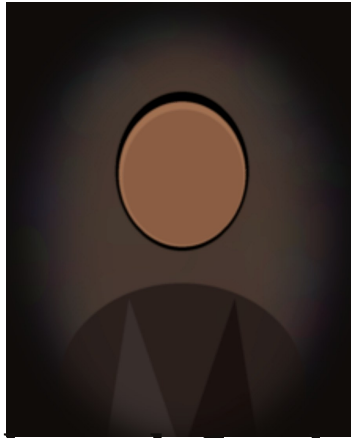




## Pharoah Sanders

*October 13, 1940 - September 24, 2022*

Los Angeles, California

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Pharoah Sanders - born Farrell Sanders - American jazz tenor saxophonist whose spiritual free-jazz language stretched from ferocious overblowing to hymn-like calm, died in Los Angeles on September 24, 2022. He was eighty-one. Born October 13, 1940, in Little Rock, Arkansas, he learned local R&B circuits, moved to Oakland and then New York, and found a crucible beside John Coltrane in the mid-1960s before leading sessions that treated improvisation as prayer as much as performance.

Albums such as Karma - with the long meditation "The Creator Has a Master Plan" - and later collaborations kept him in conversation with younger listeners who discovered his tone through samples and reissues. Colleagues described a soft-spoken man offstage whose horn could scream or float without vanity. He never abandoned the Arkansas church feeling beneath the avant-garde vocabulary.

Los Angeles became a late home after decades of New York lofts and global festival stages. He died after a period of declining health, still regarded as a bridge between Coltrane's last fire and the next century's spiritual jazz revival.

He died in Los Angeles on September 24, 2022. Late-night playlists still open with that warm, searching saxophone cry.

Sanders's gift was sacred intensity - making free improvisation feel like congregation. Notice Nearby keeps the death date so September 24 remembers the Little Rock saxophonist who turned overtones into a kind of American liturgy.

## Services

Died in Los Angeles, California, September 24, 2022. Jazz tenor saxophonist; Coltrane collaborator; known for Karma and spiritual free jazz.

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