IN HONOR OF THE LATE

Jesse McFarland

SUNRISE

October 26, 1946

SUNSET

July 22, 2026

JESSE MCFARLAND



Sunrise
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Affectionately known as “The Maestro” and famed keyboardist better known as the ‘Anointed Organist,’ Jesse Lee McFarland, Jr. lived a life that was beautifully orchestrated through service, compassion, and the extraordinary gift of music.

Jesse Lee McFarland Jr. was born in Erie, Pennsylvania to Rev. Jesse Lee McFarland Sr. and Beulah Ester Rollings McFarland, who had both preceded him in death. He began playing music at the young age of four years old with no formal training, just his ear and his talent. He did not get formal training for music until he went to the Erie Conservatory of Music in high school. From informal and formal training, Jesse was able to read and write music.

A proud United States Veteran, he answered the call to serve his country with honor, courage, and unwavering dedication, embodying the highest ideals of patriotism throughout his life.

Jesse attended Lincoln University and went on to further his studies as a Surgical PA later in life. The brave keyboard player started his music career during his college career at Lincoln University while attending a performance by the famous R&B group, the Manhattans. Amidst a performance mishap, McFarland volunteered his talents on the spot, which further served as his official audition and acceptance into the R&B group, playing as their lead organist.

He was the first musician and keyboard player for the renowned group the Manhattans. After being hired, Jesse went on to tour with the group for four years, and in addition, played for musicians Jackie Wilson and the Dells. Shortly after Jesse’s four-year contract with the Manhattans, the group went into an official hiatus. Thankfully, the lead singer of the group, Gerald Alston, decided to start his own band and commissioned McFarland to join him. Jesse went on to play on the road with Gerald Alston when he went on to his solo career.

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From this opportunity, Jesse appeared in various musical performances with The Temptations, The Supremes, Parliament/Funkadelic, Gladys Knight, Natalie Cole and The Jackson Five. While performing around the world, McFarland played various shows at venues such as The Apollo Theater and Madison Square Garden in New York, the Hammersmith Odeon in London, Uptown Theater in Philadelphia, and many other major venues in the United States, Canada, Japan, England, Scotland, and the Caribbean. Through this work, famed keyboardist Jesse McFarland paved a way for R&B artists and musicians to chase their dreams and reach unmatched potential.

Outside of his musical career, Jesse pursued the medical field and became a Board-Certified Surgical Physician Assistant. Following his military service, Jesse continued his life's mission of caring for others as a dedicated Physician Assistant. He spent many years working in the hospital setting, but had officially retired his position as a Surgical PA. His gentle spirit, professional excellence, and genuine concern for the well-being of those he served left an enduring impact on countless patients, families, and colleagues.

Music, however, was the language of his soul. As an accomplished organist and gifted musician, Jesse earned the affectionate title "The Maestro" from those who admired not only his exceptional talent but also his ability to lead, inspire, and move others through every note he played. Whether accompanying a worship service, filling a sanctuary with sacred melodies, or quietly ministering through song, his music transcended performance — it became a ministry that offered comfort, hope, healing, and joy to all who listened.

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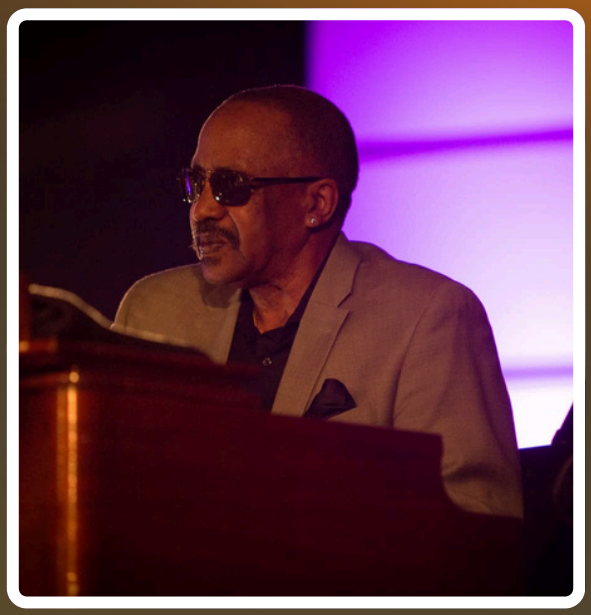
During his time in Baltimore, Maryland, Jesse formed a gospel group known as The McFarland Singers. He produced an album that was filled with Jesus, God, the Holy Spirit, and magnificent singers which included his beloved friend and brother and Kimberly's Godfather, Nolan Robinson!

As an inspired creative, Jesse continued to share his talent as a gifted organist by playing for his church community. Although all five of the original Manhattan singers were then deceased, Jesse strove to continue their R&B legacy.

Jesse's life was a remarkable symphony of faith, service, and love. He faithfully served his nation, compassionately cared for his community, and glorified God through the gift of music. His legacy lived on in the lives he touched, the patients he cared for, the congregations he inspired, and the countless hearts forever changed by "The Maestro's" unmistakable touch upon the keys.

Although his earthly song had come to its final cadence, the beautiful melody of his life will continue to echo through generations. His memory will forever remind us that a life dedicated to serving others and honoring God created a legacy that time can never silence.

Jesse left to mourn him his beloved daughter, Kimberly, he affectionately called her his kumquat, her daughter Kyir, his daughter Dawn, and son Damon and best friend and former wife, Beverly McFarland.





















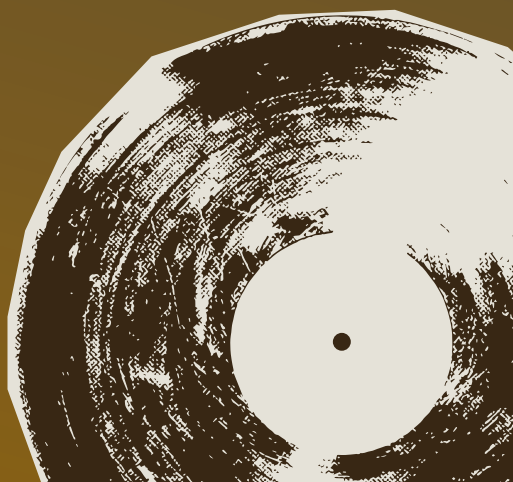


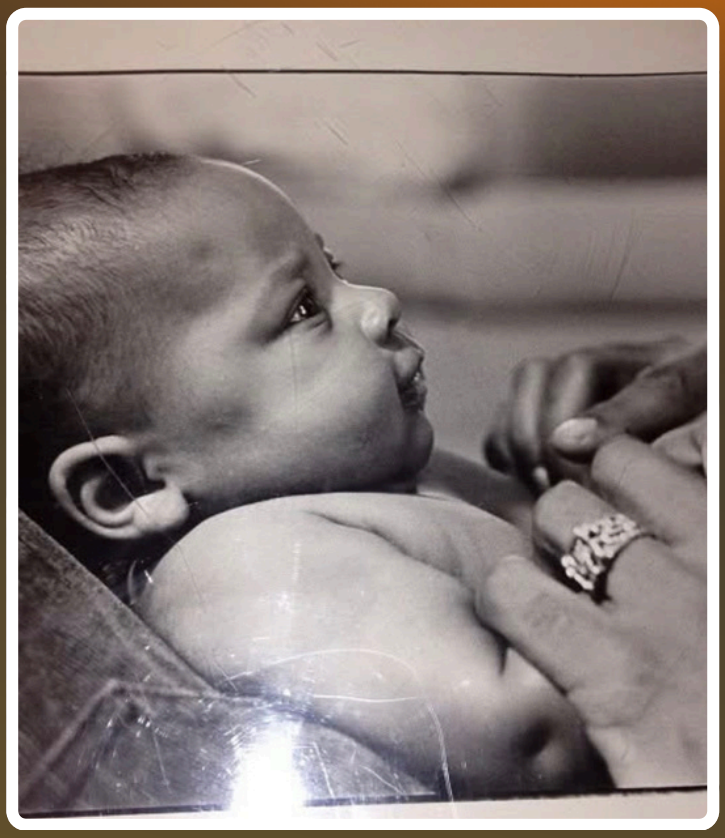





















Roland D-50
RECORDING SESSION!







THE MAESTRO'S RUN SHEET

Shake The Foundation
Presence of the Lord
Glorious

MEMORIES OF THE MAESTRO

Brittany Hay

SPECIAL SELECTIONS

The Lord's Prayer
Organ and Cello

Center of My Joy

Total Praise Medley

MEMORIES OF THE MAESTRO

At Work | Video
At Church *(Bethel AME)* | Daryl Jones
At Community Play | Open Mic

SPECIAL SELECTIONS

Great Is Your Faithfulness

MEMORIES OF THE MAESTRO FINALE

Reverend Morris

VIDEO – KISS & SAY GOODBYE

Jesse McFarland

FINALE

September

Happy Birthday

CLOSING REMARKS