

My Dad, Muhal Richard Abrams

What does my Dad mean to me?

Love!

Best friend, confidant, advisor, protector, teacher...

Undying support...

Encouragement...

Example of how to be in deep conversation  
with one's individualism.

Did I say Love?

What does my Dad mean to the AACM  
and the world?

Love, undying support, a sense of community,  
the freedom to discover, practice and  
express your individualism in its highest forms.  
And appreciate others' expressions as well.

Did I say Love?

What does my Dad mean to the universe?

Rise everyday,

Exercise every morning,

Delve deep into your studies,

Expand your mind,

Practice your instrument,

Share your knowledge freely with all who seek.

Treat people the way you want to be treated  
with kindness and respect.

Love your family.

Love your fellow man.

Did I say? Did I say? Did I say?

My Dad, Muhal Richard Abrams means...

Love.

~ Richarda Abrams, actress and daughter of Muhal  
Richard Abrams

# RICHARD ABRAMS

levels and degrees of light

STEREO  
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delmark





Muhal

Presents

# "PLATU"

ACT I

Thur. July 22 8 p.m.

ACT II

Sun. Aug. 1 7 p.m.

ACT III

Thur. Aug 12 8 p.m.

HYDE PARK ART CENTER  
5236 S. BLACKSTONE

Don. 1.75

(Scorpio)

In the early 1960s I regularly attended local jam sessions to gain experience playing with seasoned musicians. At one such session I heard about Muhal's rehearsals with his Experimental Band, which met Monday nights at the C & C Lounge on 65<sup>th</sup> and Cottage Grove. The following Monday I resolved to introduce myself to Muhal. He welcomed me with open arms and invited me to become a member of the band. Enthusiastically I agreed, and our journey in music began. Muhal was an inspiring pedagogical force who encouraged all members to write for the ensemble. He instilled within me the courage and conviction to compose, saying, "You ought to write down some of that stuff you're playing on your horn and bring it in for the band to play!" Every day, he demonstrated boundless kindness and patience, and I will always cherish the time he made to deepen my understanding of music and art. Even when we spent long periods of time apart, as soon as we got back together we could pick up exactly where we left off, discussing life and philosophy, or light and shadow.

Muhal was my dear friend and a teacher of the highest level. His contribution to music will resound long into the future.

~ Roscoe Mitchell, musician, composer, and founding member of  
the Art Ensemble of Chicago and the Association for the  
Advancement of Creative Musicians (AACM)



# THE MUHAL RICHARD ABRAMS ORCHESTRA

"BLU BLU BLU"





A.A.C.M.  
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EVERY WEDNESDAY

THIS WEEK!  
AUG. 30  
'MUHAL ABRAMS'

and the

a.a.c.m.

BB BB  
**BIG BAND**

8:30  
P.M.

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What I'm writing about is in response to a celebration of the life of one Muhal Richard Abrams, extraordinaire.

From my viewpoint I see a personal expedition that never ceased to search, inquire, and challenge precepts and norms. Here are some remnants of that musical journey, a very broad musical journey.

This is a life that demonstrated a singular motivation to expand, grow, and create.

The AACM had a host of founders and presidents, but Muhal singularly carried the responsibility of seeing to its existence, nonstop.

The AACM is richer and the music community is richer because of that dedication.

Music, not just jazz, is richer because of his leadership, musicianship, creativity-ship.

I have seen for years how younger musicians have been drawn to his ideas, and his presence.

This is how the future becomes.

People gather in a mass  
To celebrate this example of  
How . . . . . the magnificent can take place.

~ Henry Threadgill, musician and member of the AACM since 1969



MUHAL RICHARD ABRAMS



BLUES FOREVER





FRI. JUNE SAT.  
25—26

# KALAPARUSHA

MAURICE M<sup>c</sup>INTYRE

*AND THE*

LIGHT JAZZ ENSEMBLE

*AACM*

WITH RICHARD ABRAMS



Muhal  
Richard Abrams.

He was a spiritual man.

Full of light was his way.

He guided the message from his Heart and as he played the Ebony and Ivory  
soundbox his Knowledge went forth.

Completely.

Straight into the suffering divide, His love illustrated unity.

The sweet and powerful truth.

He returned home with a slow And fast dance,  
Yet quietly and peaceful he Remain.

Forever Muhal's wisdom and Music fired up through the Soundbox.

Light light!

Life!

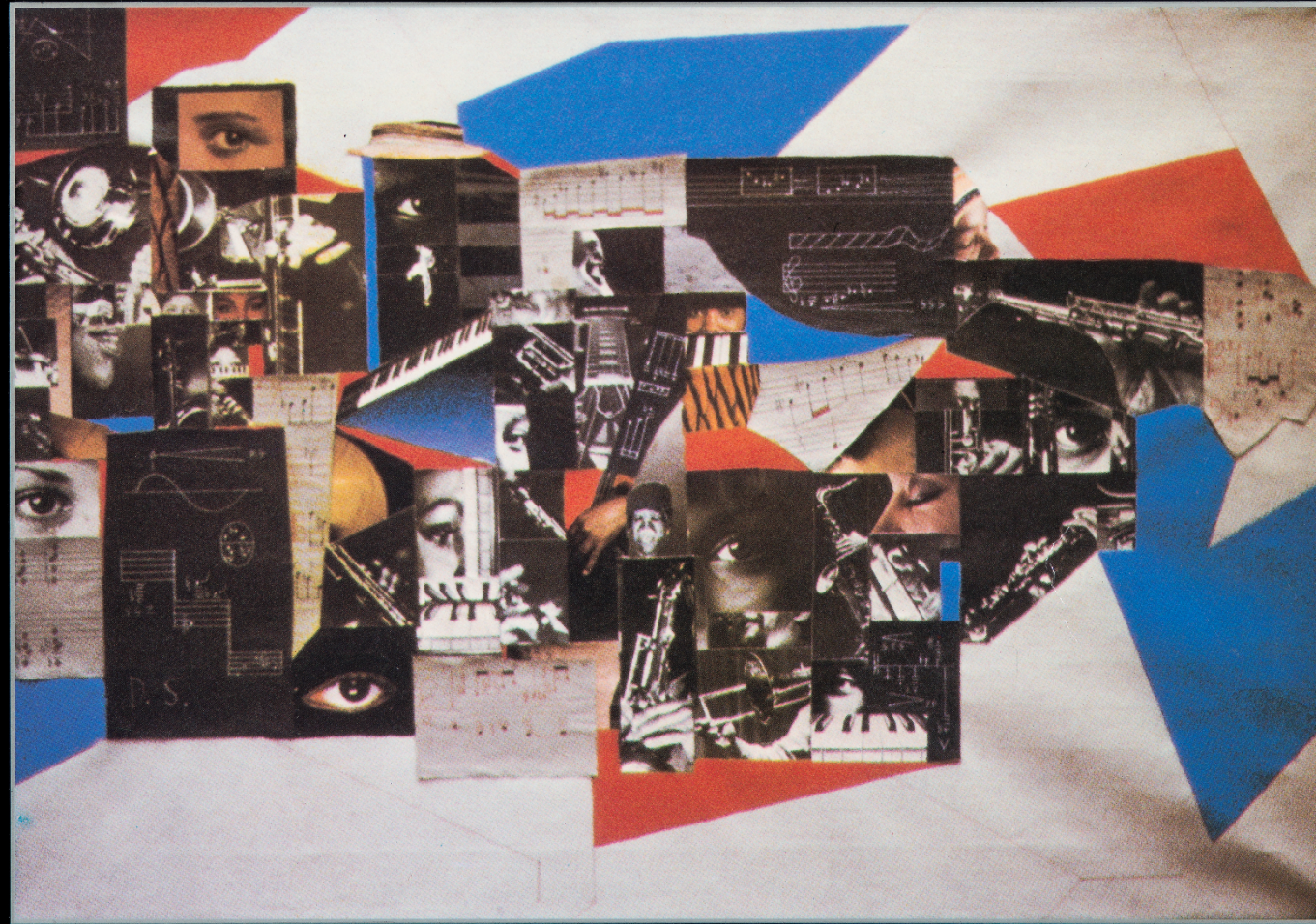
Light!

~ Wadda Leo Smith, musician and member of the AACM  
since 1967



MUHAL RICHARD ABRAMS OCTET

# View From Within





# MUHAL RICHARD ABRAMS

Featuring CECIL McBEE



Digital Recording

## ROOTS OF BLUE





# AACM FESTIVAL

FEATURING  
AACMBIG BAND  
WITH

JOSEPH JARMAN  
KALAPARUSHA  
ROSCOE MITCHELL  
MUHAL (RICHARD ABRAMS)

THUR. THUR.  
SEPT. 9 SEPT. 30  
8 P.M.

DONATION  
\$2.00

CHILD CITY  
8701 S.  
BENNETT







Muhal Richard Abrams was, is, and forever my spiritual brother. I have known him for fifty-four years and I recognized his wisdom on life in general. He was a master creator in the world of music. I have been amazed through the years with his compositions of symphonic music, jazz, blues, and extended forms (his description of creative music). He loved the blues, gospel, and other forms of music. He wrote several plays with no written dialogue. He left it up to the artists to create it. Again I was amazed. One of his plays ran for a month with full houses each time it was performed on the south side of Chicago. His paintings always told a story with color and form. He would be happy to take time to tell me the story with each one I saw and I found them to be spiritual and very interesting. Whenever I attended his solo piano concerts, I immediately started creating in my mind and I actually wanted to go home, play the piano, and create music. This was because his music was so spiritual that it touched my soul. He was a beautiful spirit to me and others, personally and artistically. Muhal never hesitated to come to my aid many times when needed. I learned so much from him. He introduced me to the music of the greats . . . Meade Lux Lewis, Willie The Lion Smith, and later, Jimmy Yancy, James P. Johnson, Fats Waller, and many more. Muhal was a free spirit that was completely open to what the universe had to offer. He was a teacher, a one-of-a-kind artist who inspired me and others in various ways. He was a great part of my life! Muhal will never be forgotten.

~ Amina Claudine Myers, pianist, vocalist, organist, composer,  
actress, and AACM member since 1966

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ABRAMS  
ENSEMBLE**

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# Muhal Richard Abrams

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