

*'Forever In our hearts'*



With special thanks from the  
Gordon family.

The family of the late Horatio H. Gordon wishes to acknowledge with deep appreciation the many comforting messages, floral tributes, prayers & many other expressions of kindness & concern evidenced at this time in thought & deed.

Thank you so much for all your love & support during such a difficult time. We will be forever grateful.

Please join us next door at the Carter Center Fellowship Hall for the repast after the service.



A CELEBRATION OF  
*Life*



**HORATIO H. GORDON**

**SUNSET: FEBRUARY 6, 2023**

**CALVARY BAPTIST CHURCH SANTA MONICA  
MARCH 11, 2023, at 11:00 AM PST**

**OFFICIATOR & EULOGIST:**

**PASTOR DARYL MCKILLIAN**

**(of Reconcile Church Los Angeles)**





## Obituary

Horatio Gordon was born in Detroit, Michigan to a loving family headed by his parents, Cecil & Ursula Gordon, who were Jamaican immigrant educators. Horatio was the youngest sibling, after sister, Claudette; brother, Walter; and older fraternal twin brother; Bruce.

After elementary & middle school, Horatio attended Detroit's prestigious Cass Technical High School, where he ran varsity cross country & played sax in the Jazz Ensemble. Later, he studied at Wayne State University, then moved to Los Angeles, where he was mentored by Earth, Wind & Fire saxophonist, Andrew Woolfolk. Horatio graduated from El Camino College & studied at California State University, Los Angeles before receiving his BA in business administration from the University of Phoenix.

Horatio started playing alto saxophone as a child & became an accomplished professional who toured the United States, the United Kingdom & Europe with multiple-Grammy-winning recording Warner Bros. Records artist, Leo Sayer. Horatio also recorded or jammed with other A-list performers from major record companies, including Melissa Manchester, Bootsy Collins, Verdine White, Andrae Crouch, Teena Marie, & El Debarge. Horatio also played on several gold albums for Arista Records artist, Ray Parker, Jr., most famous for his theme song for the "Ghostbusters" series of movies released by Columbia Pictures (Sony Pictures Entertainment), including one with legendary jazz keyboardist, Herbie Hancock.

A voting member of the Recording Academy, Horatio co-wrote songs with his brother, Bruce, that were recorded & released by artists on RCA Records, an independent feature film & in a short film that was featured in France's Festival de Cannes Court Métrage, (Short Film Corner) which streamed on Amazon Prime Video & was selected for digital catalogues of public libraries in multiple states.

Horatio worked with the recording artist Prince in an onscreen supporting role of the iconic musical genius's music video for "Partyman," a single from a Warner Bros. Records soundtrack album based upon director Tim Burton's Warner Bros. Studios first "Batman" film. He had another onscreen supporting role in Clint Eastwood's "Bird" film about the iconic saxophonist, Charlie Parker, which won Eastwood the Golden Globe for Best Director. Horatio also appeared in the 2017 Academy Award-winning ESPN 30 for 30 documentary, "O. J.: Made in America." Working in production support roles for music and other entertainment shows at the highest levels of the industry is another aspect of Horatio Gordon's early career. Some of these include the Grammy Awards, American Music Awards, Kids Choice Awards, Soul Train Music Awards, as well as the prestigious American Cinematheque Awards, Race to Erase MS, etc. where he coordinated with iconic recording artists, such as Taylor Swift, Paul McCartney, Jay Z, Kanye West & T.I., as well as actors Samuel L. Jackson, Kerry Washington, Jennifer Garner, Bill Maher & Mario Lopez, among others.

Eventually, Horatio's entertainment career moved behind the scenes. He interned in the promotion department of a radio station & worked as a recording studio engineer assistant with A-List recording artists at the highest levels at major labels. Later, he worked at the West Coast corporate offices of Sony/BMG Music (Columbia/CBS, Epic, EMI, Sony/ATV, etc.), as their Dub Room Coordinator, an administrative support position where he did technical audio work, assisted VPs & other executives, and attended meetings for new releases where his multi-disciplined knowledge of the industry could be on full display. Then he worked at the Fox Cable Sports & Fox Speed Channels (NASCAR Cup & FIFA World Cup Soccer, etc.) in the Commercial Administration, Reconciliation & TV Program Scheduling departments.



For the past six years, Horatio loved working as a substitute teacher in the Los Angeles Unified School District because it allowed him to make a positive difference by daily mentoring hundreds of at-risk, inner-city young people for many years. He taught Special Education, Music, History, Math, Physical Education, Media, etc. on both day-to-day & long-term assignments. Horatio took pride in sharing his life experiences with & inspiring hundreds of young people, and he looked forward to it every chance he could get.

Remembering how he was helped as a kid by A-listers NBA Hall of Famer, Dave Bing & NFL Hall of Famer, Lem Barney as Pony League coaches, Horatio volunteered to help underprivileged kids, chaperoning them to sporting events at First A.M.E. Church. He also volunteered to assist young people with literacy, on phone banks for the United Cerebral Palsy telethon, and for Colin Powell's "America's Promise" Foundation.

Horatio was passionate about Social Justice for historically-marginalized people & was passionately committed to making a positive difference in his community.

But he never stopped working entrepreneurially as a sax player for parties, weddings & other civic events when the right people or organizations wanted to hire him.

Horatio's main creative passion was songwriting & music production. His songs were like children to him. He had just recently birthed a solo performing career with his singing, producing & music publishing debut song: "A WOMAN," which is currently available on Spotify, Apple Music, Amazon Music & all major music streaming / downloading platforms in world, including SoundCloud.

This special debut song he leaves behind is purely meant to uplift every woman in every sense--& to encourage every man to be supportive. An audio-format music video was also released on YouTube.

Horatio was an avid Lakers fan, befriending the star players & executives, and he prided himself on being a player of the game himself & being able to outshoot the youngsters. He was authentic, through & through, seldom hesitating to speak his mind, even at the risk of appearing brusque at times. Family & friends who knew him well knew that he "danced to the beat of his own drum" & lived life on his own terms: lots of passion for whatever he was talking about... & lots of laughs after any arguments.

Horatio loved traveling the world. And he loved God, attending various churches, including West Angeles C.O.G.I.C., Crenshaw Christian Center, Maranatha Community, Faithful Central, First A.M.E. in Los Angeles & Victory Christian Fellowship, Santa Monica. He even wrote about his close relationship with God in some of his work, most notably the EDM song of love for The Creator entitled: "Thank You."

He departed this life following complications from open heart surgery to repair an aortic aneurysm. As a family we were taught that being absent from the body means being present with God for those who believe, and Horatio is counted among those who hold that tradition dear.

Horatio is survived by his sister Claudette Gordon and brothers Walter & Bruce, along with his sister-in-law, Bruce's wife, Gail... as well as a host of cousins that are truly more like nieces & nephews—and the friends & colleagues that were grafted like family into his rich life experience.

\* \* \*

"Rest in peace, Horatio. And may the peace of God that surpasses all of our human understanding rest, rule & abide across all of us... and grant us comfort as we miss you."



## *Order of Service*

### **PROCESSIONAL / WELCOME**

Organist - Rev. George Cowart

### **CALL TO SERVICE**

Pastor Daryl McKillian

### **MUSIC**

“The Blood Will Never Lose Its Power” / Singer: Rev. George Cowart

### **SCRIPTURE READING**

Rev. Annanda Barclay (Horatio's Second Cousin)

### **OBITUARY**

Bruce B. Gordon (Horatio's Fraternal Twin Brother)

### **VIDEO 1: SLIDE SHOW PICTURES**

Music: “That's The Way of the World” by Earth, Wind & Fire  
& “Heaven” by BeBe & CeCe Winans

### **VIDEO 2: HORATIO, THE SAX PLAYER**

Video Montage of Various Performances

### **VIDEO 3: HORATIO, THE SINGER-SONGWRITER ARTIST**

“A Woman” (Lyric Video Commissioned After His Departure)

### **EULOGY**

Pastor Daryl McKillian

### **VIDEO 4: HORATIO'S RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD**

“Thank You” (Lyric Video Commissioned After His Departure)

### **FAMILY & FRIEND REMARKS**

(Please Limit to 2 Minutes)

### **CLOSING PRAYER**

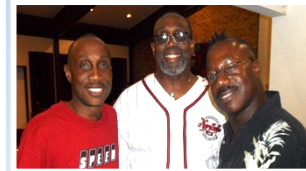
Pastor Daryl McKillian

### **CLOSING SONG**

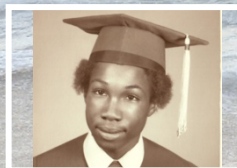
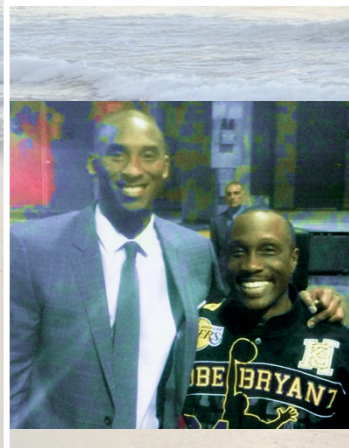
“I'm Goin' Up Yonder” / Singer: Rev. George Cowart

### **CONCLUSION & EXIT**

Organ Music continuing: “Going Up Yonder”







## SCRIPTURAL READING

### The Greatest Commandment

One of the teachers of the law came & heard them debating. Noticing that Jesus had given them a good answer, he asked him,

“Of all the commandments, which is the most important?”

“The most important one,” answered Jesus, “is this: ‘Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one.

Love the Lord your God with all your heart & with all your soul & with all your mind & with all your strength.’

The second is this: ‘Love your neighbor as yourself.’

There is no commandment greater than these.”

**Mark 12: 28 – 31 (NIV)**

Horatio LOVED God-- and he loved people.

## THANK YOU: A SONG OF GRATITUDE TO GOD

Co-written by Horatio H. Gordon

I JUST WANT TO THANK YOU.

You're always there for me, you've got my back.

I JUST WANT TO THANK YOU.

No matter where I go or where I'm at.

I JUST WANT TO THANK YOU.

You forgave me when I was acting “wack.”

I JUST WANT TO THANK YOU, THANK YOU, THANK YOU!!

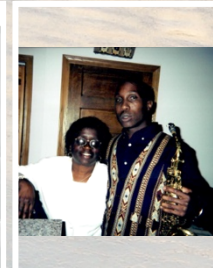




## A LIFE OF ENTERTAINING

Horatio was one the rare people in life that loved to share his talents to make you

**LAUGH** a little louder,  
**SMILE** a little bigger and  
**LIVE** just a little bit better.



## HORATIO WILL ALWAYS BE ALIVE THROUGH HIS MUSIC

- \* On Spotify, Apple Music, Amazon, YouTube & ALL DIGITAL PLATFORMS as lead singer: "H-Factor" (songwriter, producer, publisher & saxophonist of the group: "Where Day At?" & as solo artist/musician: "Horatio Gordon")
- \* As Chief Collaborator on [SoundCloud.com/BruceGordonMedia](https://soundcloud.com/BruceGordonMedia)