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
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 65th 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)
A.A.C.M.
CONCERT
EVERY WEDNESDAY
THIS WEEK!
AUG 30
‘MUHAL ABRAMS’
and the
A.A.C.M.
BIG BAND
8:30
P.M.
DON.
$2.00
CHILD CITY
8701 S. BENNETT
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 ACCM since 1969
FRI. JUNE 25-26 SAT.

KALAPARUSHA
MAURICE McINTYRE
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
Festival

Featuring AACM Big Band

with Joseph Jarman, Kalaparusha, Roscoe Mitchell, Muhal (Richard Abrams)

Thursday, Sept. 9 & 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
THE OLD TOWN PLAYERS
PRESENT THE
Association for the Advancement
of Creative Musicians
FEATURING
RICHARD ABRAMS
ENSEMBLE
IN A
EVENING OF
CONTEMPORARY
MUSIC
Sunday, May 19, 1968
3:00 – 5:30 P.M.
1718 NO. NORTH PARK AVENUE
DONATION - $2.50
For Reservations Call: 645-0145
Concert of Modern Music
Richard Abrams
Experimental Band
Lincoln Center
ADM. FREE
700 E. Oakwood
Jan 12, 1965