

A Service of  
Celebration and Thanksgiving  
for the life of

Dr. Horace Clarence Boyer



July 28, 1935 – July 21, 2009

Saturday  
October 10, 2009  
1:00 pm

In Falling Shadows

(for Horace Clarence Boyer)

Shade, sunshine, and shadows  
The spread of light beams  
And sacred bountiful dreams  
With heightened illumination  
Of such sweet sounds and thunder.

The height, weight, and swelling  
Of magnificent holy and glory  
Thrust upon the face of earth  
Cast in the fate of gospel's tradition  
Is a special blessing of mighty worth.

He sang the songs of righteousness  
Glorifying the spirit and goodness  
Of people who joined in joy  
In the celebration of jubilee  
And in praise of the goodness of life.

May his sprit and blessings  
Always be remembered.

Frederick C. Tillis

21 July 2009

## Order of Service

Prelude

Opening Hymn        There's a sweet, sweet Spirit  
                              *LEVAS #120*

Selection             The Voices of New Africa House Choir  
                              Mrs. Freda Bagley, Director

Opening Prayer      The Rev'd A. Robert Hirschfeld  
                              Officiant  
                              Rector Grace Episcopal Church  
                              Amherst, MA

First Reading        Psalm 121        Bro. Cyrus Cox

Selection             *We are climbing Jacob's ladder*  
                              Combined choirs of Goodwin A.M.E.  
                              Zion, Wesley United Methodist,  
                              Grace Episcopal, and The Voices  
                              of New Africa House Choir  
                              Soloist, Gregory Sutton

Gospel                John 10:11-16  
                              Rev. Alfred L. Johnson  
                              Goodwin A.M.E. Zion  
                              Amherst, MA

Prayer                Rev. Clyde D. Talley  
                              Belmont A.M.E. Zion  
                              Worcester, MA

Tributes:

Scholar/Musician    Dr. Frederick Tillis  
                              Retired Music Professor  
                              Emeritus  
                              University of Massachusetts

Citizen                The Honorable Stan Rosenberg  
                              State Senator  
                              Boston, MA

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Godfather                    Dr. Edythe W. Stewart  
Sequoia Surgical Specialist  
General Surgeon  
Fresno, CA

Jazz Tribute                *Come Sunday*  
Composer, Duke Ellington  
Professor Jeffrey Holmes  
Director of Jazz and African  
American Studies  
University of Massachusetts

Teacher                      Ms. Semanya McCord  
Music Teacher  
Lombard Middle School  
Galesburg, IL

Friend                        Dr. Joseph Skerrett  
Retired English Professor  
Emeritus  
University of Massachusetts

Solo                            *Precious Lord*  
Nathaniel Anderson

Sermon                        Dr. James Boyer  
Pastor  
Fellowship Temple  
Church of God in Christ  
Manhattan, Kansas

Selection                    The Voices of New Africa House Choir

Final Prayers and Commendation

Closing Hymn                It's a Highway to Heaven



A reception follows the Service at  
UMASS Campus Center, Student Union Ballroom

## Amherst recalls Boyer's gift of gospel



“The world is dimmer now, but a heavenly choir is singing with more life.”

This is how Rob Hirschfeld, pastor of Grace Episcopal Church in Amherst, described the passing of Horace Clarence Boyer, a resident since 1973, who died July 21<sup>st</sup> at the age of 74.

Boyer gave life to the earthly choirs he sang in as well, including many Sundays at Grace Church, where he became a member upon moving to Amherst, and on several gospel albums he recorded during the 1950s with his brother, James, under the name of the Boyer Brothers.

Music was Boyer's passion. He received a doctorate from the Eastman School of Music and was a professor in the department of Music and Dance from 1973 to 1999 at the University of Massachusetts Amherst.

His passion had a great influence on many in the community. Tom Reney, a host of WFCR's "Jazz a la Mode," said Boyer had been a mentor to him since he first met him as a UMass student in the 1970s, and was certain many others would call him a mentor as well.

“He had a genuine gift for teaching,” Reney said. “He could bring out the innate musicality in everyone. I saw him turn somewhat sedate gatherings of people into near revival meetings...by the way he helped people discover something in themselves that maybe they didn't know existed before.”

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