

SCRIPTURE READINGS

OLD TESTAMENT: PSALM 34:18

THE LORD IS CLOSE TO THE BROKENHEARTED AND SAVES THOSE WHO ARE CRUSHED IN SPIRIT.

NEW TESTAMENT: REVELATION 14:13

THEN I HEARD A VOICE FROM HEAVEN SAY, "WRITE THIS: BLESSED ARE THE DEAD WHO DIE IN THE LORD FROM NOW ON." "YES," SAYS THE SPIRIT, "THEY WILL REST FROM THEIR LABOR, FOR THEIR DEEDS WILL FOLLOW THEM."

NEW TESTAMENT: JOHN 15:5-8

"I AM THE VINE; YOU ARE THE BRANCHES. IF YOU REMAIN IN ME AND I IN YOU, YOU WILL BEAR MUCH FRUIT; APART FROM ME YOU CAN DO NOTHING. IF YOU DO NOT REMAIN IN ME, YOU ARE LIKE A BRANCH THAT IS THROWN AWAY AND WITHERS; SUCH BRANCHES ARE PICKED UP, THROWN INTO THE FIRE AND BURNED. IF YOU REMAIN IN ME AND MY WORDS REMAIN IN YOU, ASK WHATEVER YOU WISH, AND IT WILL BE DONE FOR YOU. THIS IS TO MY FATHER'S GLORY, THAT YOU BEAR MUCH FRUIT, SHOWING YOURSELVES TO BE MY DISCIPLES.



ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

THE FAMILY WISHES TO EXPRESS THEIR DEEP APPRECIATION AND SINCERE THANKS FOR ALL THE KINDNESS SHOWN TO THEM DURING THEIR TIME OF SORROW. IN LIEU OF FLOWERS, DONATIONS CAN BE MADE TO THE NEW LIGHT BAPTIST CHURCH TOWARDS THE JOHNNY KEMP MUSIC FELLOWSHIP FUND.

FUNERAL ARRANGEMENTS ENTRUSTED TO

MEADOWREST MEMORIAL CHAPEL
PATRIECE B. MILLER FUNERAL SERVICES
5012 4TH AVENUE | BROOKLYN, NY 11220 | 718.314.2019

THE HOMEGOING CELEBRATION FOR



Jonathan Melchizedek Kemp

AUGUST 2, 1959 – APRIL 16, 2015

MONDAY, MAY 11, 2015

ST. PHILIP'S CHURCH
204 WEST 134TH STREET | NEW YORK, NY 10030

MINISTER OFFICIATING
REV. BOBBY LEWIS, SENIOR PASTOR
NEW LIGHT BAPTIST CHURCH
213 EAST 125TH STREET | NEW YORK, NY 10035

OBITUARY CONTINUED...

"Circle Entertainment" expanded its clientele to include major ad agencies. Circle clients included Uniworld, BBDO and Garfish. Most recently Circle Entertainment rebranded its enterprise to Circle Entertainment and Multi-Media and moved to Harlem. Under Johnny's leadership, Circle expanded its staff to eight. His most recent projects included co-producing the video "Heartbreaker" for Circle artist "The Voice" contestant Kenny Araujo. Johnny was in the process of recording a new album. He mentored and inspired a staff and crew of artists, writers, producers and his leadership, wisdom, love and laughter will be missed by all at Circle Entertainment and Mochrie Music.

Even though it seemed as if this solo artist had reached his pinnacle, he continued to exude the energy to perform for his fans. This passion recently took him to Jamaica as he was in route to perform on the Tom Joyner Cruise Ship. Unfortunately he met his demise.

Johnny Kemp was an ambassador who publically displayed a genuine love for his Bahamian country! He announced his Bahamian heritage at every opportunity, and would always include some mention of the Bahamas on interviews and performances. He described the Bahamas as a calm, sweet and loving place to live. His musical talents were instrumental in bringing international recognition to The Bahamas.

He was an adventurer, a free spirited individual who "embraced unconventional situations and savored the moment". His dream in life was "to make good music, communicate some love and have fun doing it!" This talented Bahamian singer/entertainer was "famous, in his own right", long before the "Just Got Paid" song hit the Billboard charts. Johnny Kemp certainly left his mark in New York City and was indeed an icon in the Bahamian entertainment industry and he will be missed by all. May his dream live on through his family, friends and fans!

He is survived by:

Wife: Deirdre Fisher-Kemp & **two sons:** Jason & Jared;

Brothers: Van Bethell, Sobig, Percy, Blanton, Jonathan M., Micheal, David;

Sisters: Genie, Minerva McIntosh, Yvonne Ward, Janice Pinder, Patricia "Patty", Deann Cassandra, Bernice, Deborah;

Nieces and nephews: Cornell, Vaughn, Jovan; Sobig Jr., Shenika, Serena, Tawari, Juan; Tamika, Sacha, Renee, Shaunna; Keva; Melissa, Blanton Jr., Madea, Brenton; Phillip Jr., Anja; Doñyelle, Donnée, Dawn; Jade, Jason; Leslie; and numerous other nieces, nephews, grand nieces and nephews;

Brothers and sisters-in-law: Joyce Bethell, Elizabeth, Chelsea, Bishop Cardinal McIntosh, Donald Ward, Catherine, Jed Grossman;

Numerous aunts and uncles including: Vernon & Thelma Pinder, Freida Johnson, Lester Gibson, Cora Gibson;

And a host of cousins and other relatives and many close friends in the Bahamas and in New York.

Johnny's Body of Work

2013		100 HITS: 80s WEEKENDER	PRIMARY ARTIST
2012		DISCO GIANTS, VOL.8	PRIMARY ARTIST
2009		50 DISCO HITS: MIXED BY BEN LIEBRAND	PRIMARY ARTIST
2008		SHOUT! SHUFFLE, VOL. 2	COMPOSER, PRIMARY ARTIST, PRODUCER
2007		ABOUT A GIRL	VOCALS, VOCALS (BACKGROUND)
2007		DISCO GIANTS, VOL. 1	PRIMARY ARTIST
2007		GOLD: OLD SCHOOL JAMS	ARRANGER, COMPOSER, PRIMARY ARTIST
2007		INTUITION BETTY HARRIS	COMPOSER
2007		SWEAT HOTEL LIVE KEITH SWEAT	GUEST ARTIST, PRIMARY ARTIST, ADDITIONAL PERSONNEL, COMPOSER, VOCALS
2005		ESSENTIAL SOUL: NITELIFE	COMPOSER, PRIMARY ARTIST
2005		JUST GOT PAID JOHNNY KEMP	COMPOSER, PRIMARY ARTIST
2005		SALUTE! THE WORLD WAR II TRIBUTE ALBUM	PRIMARY ARTIST
2004		CLASSIC REWIND MC MARIO	COMPOSER, PRIMARY ARTIST
2004		NO. 1 R&B HITS, VOL. 3	PRIMARY ARTIST
2004		SUGAR BEATS: GREATEST DANCE HITS	PRIMARY ARTIST, VOCALS
2003		GOOD 2 GO ELEPHANT MAN	COMPOSER
2003		NEW JACK SWING	COMPOSER, PRIMARY ARTIST
2003		SOUL FUNK 80s	COMPOSER, PRIMARY ARTIST
2002		GIVE IT UP	COMPOSER, PRIMARY ARTIST
2002		IBIZA SUMMER ANTHEMS, VOL. 2 (CLUB CLASS)	PRODUCER
2002		NEW JACK SWING ERA	COMPOSER, PRIMARY ARTIST
2002		SOUL HITS OF THE 80s SONY	COMPOSER, PRIMARY ARTIST
2001		BLUES & SOUL, VOL. 11: 1988-1989	PRIMARY ARTIST
2001		DEFINITIVE BAHAMEN: THE EARLY YEARS BAHAMEN	COMPOSER
2001		DISCO DANCE	COMPOSER, PERFORMER, PRIMARY ARTIST

2001		HITS OF 1988		COMPOSER, PRIMARY ARTIST
2001		MONSTER HITS: 86, 87, 88		COMPOSER, PRIMARY ARTIST
2001		SAME PLACE, SAME TIME	J. BLACKFOOT	COMPOSER
2001		SOULTOWN USA	KEVIN DAVIDSON	COMPOSER
2001		SPACE BOOGIE: SMOKE ODDESSEY	KURUPT	COMPOSER
2001		THE SKETCH	CHRISTIAN MARSH	COMPOSER, GUITAR
2001		TYPISCH TACHTIG!		PRIMARY ARTIST
2001		URBAN NOSTALGIA	BABY BLUE	COMPOSER, PERFORMER, PRIMARY ARTIST
2000		CAR TUNES	SUGAR BEATS	VOCALS
2000		JAMMIN' GROOVES		COMPOSER, PERFORMER, PRIMARY ARTIST
2000		LINE DANCE 2001	COCHISE	PRIMARY ARTIST
2000		NO STRINGS ATTACHED	*NSNYC	COMPOSER
2000		OLD SCHOOL, VOL. 7		COMPOSER, PERFORMER, PRIMARY ARTIST
2000		PULSATING GROOVES, VOL. 2		COMPOSER, PERFORMER, PRIMARY ARTIST
2000		REVELATIONS	WILLIS WILSON	FEATURED ARTIST, GUEST ARTIST
1999		CLASSIC NEW JACK MASTERCUTS, VOL. 2		PRIMARY ARTIST
1999		MONSTER '88 HITS		COMPOSER, PERFORMER, PRIMARY ARTIST
1999		MONSTER HITS 86-88		COMPOSER, PRIMARY ARTIST
1998		WILD THING	SUGAR BEATS	VOCALS
1998		BATHHOUSE BETTY	BETTE MIDLER	VOCALS, VOCALS (BACKGROUND)
1988		HOW SWEET IT IS	SUGAR BEATS	VOCALS
1997		BACK TO THE BEAT	SUGAR BEATS	VOCALS
1997		THE BEST OF CHRON GEN	CHRON GEN	PERFORMER
1996		BACK TO THE 80'S {SONY 4 DISC}		PRIMARY ARTIST
1997		NEW JACK HITS		COMPOSER, PERFORMER, PRIMARY ARTIST
1996		SHUT UP AND DANCE! THE 80'S, VOL. 1		COMPOSER, PERFORMER, PRIMARY ARTIST
1995		BILLBOARD HOT R&B HITS 1988		COMPOSER, PERFORMER, PRIMARY ARTIST
1995		FOR THE LOVE MUSIC	LIONEL HAMPTON	COMPOSER, FEATURED ARTIST, PERFORMER, PRIMARY ARTIST, VOCALS

At the end of summer 1978, the band had accumulated enough funds to take their performances on the road. They "stepped out of their comfort zone" in the Bahamas and took a chance in "The Big Apple". The six-man band returned to New York with lead singer, Johnny Kemp to perform at Brody's. The group later landed gigs at "The Cellar", where they met singers like Chaka Chan and others, and Jock's in uptown Harlem and then changed their name to "Der Kinky Fox". The Bands' stunning shows awarded them a manager and they travelled all over the South entertaining the masses. However, in 1981, the group's stardom soon came to an end while in New York City and Kemp eventually became a solo act. This is when he really began honing his craft as a singer, and further developed his other talents as a dancer and songwriter. He entertained in places like Mikel's, Village Underground, and Café Wa.

Johnny's skills extended to more than just his stage presence, he was also a dynamic organizer. His strong connection with his close-knit family evoked his need to network. He was instrumental in organizing song artists and musicians to perform at "The Cellar", where many popular artists started out. He loved putting people together and making job connections. He was an inspiration to so many people.

Johnny met his wife, Deirdre Fisher-Kemp in 1983 and in June of 1985 he experienced the joy of his first-born son, Jason. This joy was reclaimed in April of 1994 when his second son, Jared was born. Johnny adored family. Sundays were known as family time, Kemp's schedule was closed to any and everything else. He was one to absorb those breathtaking moments and enjoy life to the fullest. The family would relax with a movie, play/production, Street Festival or any cultural show or event. Johnny had a love for the Arts and never lost his longing for his own Bahamian culture; every summer he would pack up his New York family and head back to his native homeland for a taste of it! His entire summer days were spent on the beaches in the Bahamas, soaking up the sun, sand and sea, and simply enjoying the Bahamian culture (especially the foods). He especially treasured the moments he spent relaxing in the company of his extended family at annual Family Reunions. Kemp said this was how he would rejuvenate to return to work in the Big City.

In 1986, he released his self-titled debut album "Johnny Kemp". The album reached No. 36 on Billboard's 100 R&B albums and the first single "Just Another Lover", peaked at No. 14. In 1987 his second album "Secrets of Flying" was released and in 1988 the single "Just Got Paid", written by Kemp and produced by Teddy Riley, skyrocketed to #1 on the U.S. Billboard Hot Black Singles and U. S. Billboard Hot Dance Club Play R&B and reached the Top 10 on the Billboard Hot 100. In 1989 Johnny received a Grammy nomination for Best R&B Song at the 31st Grammy's in the same category as Bobby Brown and Luther Vandross. The song was recovered in 2000 on NSYNC's album "No Strings Attached". In 2007, he appeared in the "all-star finale" on Keith Sweat's DVD "Sweat Hotel Live" recorded in a 2006 concert in Atlanta.

In past years, Johnny Kemp has been referred to as a "One Hit Wonder", but he did SO MUCH more than "Just Got Paid!" He was the voice of numerous jingles and movie soundtracks like "Sing" and "Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtle". In 2001, Johnny, with longtime friend and collaborator-musician/producer, Bert Price, opened the production company called "Circle Entertainment and Mochrie Music" in downtown Manhattan. Circle under Johnny's leadership as CEO would sign former Jive Records artists Imajin and signed them to a new deal under Universal/Motown Records. Circle grew to include signing and managing and developing artists and producers that continue to flourish in the entertainment industry.

Order of Service

CALL TO ORDER | "HUNGRY" - CHARITY DAWSON

CALL TO WORSHIP | PASTOR BOBBY LEWIS

OPENING PRAYER | PASTOR RALPH GERMAIN

SELECTION | "I WILL BLESS THE LORD" - THE BOBBY LEWIS ENSEMBLE

SCRIPTURE READING

OLD TESTAMENT/PSALM 34:18 | SACHA KEMP-MOSLEY
NEW TESTAMENT/REVELATION 14:13 | MELISSA KEMP-PERRY

SELECTION | "HIS EYE IS ON THE SPARROW" - BISHOP SOBIG KEMP

SPECIAL REFLECTIONS

OBI PINDLING | TIMMY ALLEN | VINCENT HENRY

SELECTION | "I LOVE YOU JESUS" - NLBC MASS CHOIR

SPECIAL REFLECTIONS

BRUCE PURSE | MARIA DAVIS | KEVIN ROBINSON | RICHARD BERG

SELECTION | "JESUS WILL WELCOME ME HOME" - NLBC MASS CHOIR

SPECIAL REFLECTIONS

CELESTE JACKSON | BERT PRICE | LESLIE POWELL | BRIAN MYERS

SELECTION | "SAILING" - ALYSON WILLIAMS

PLEASE TURN OVER...

SELECTION | "SAILING" - ALYSON WILLIAMS

SPECIAL PRESENTATION | ANTHONY PRATT
BAHAMIAN - AMERICAN ASSOCIATION

READING OF THE OBITUARY | DEACON ENGA DAVIS

PRAYER OF COMFORT | PASTOR GREG LUCAS

SELECTION | VALARIE SIMPSON

WORDS FROM THE FAMILY

PASTOR PERCY KEMP | MICHAEL KEMP | PATTY KEMP-GROSSMAN

WORDS FROM JOHNNY'S CHILDREN | JASON & JARED KEMP

SPECIAL PRESENTATION | THE HONORABLE FORRESTER J. CARROLL, J.P.
GENERAL CONSUL OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE BAHAMAS NY, NY

SELECTION | "THAT GREAT DAY" - RYAN SHAW

EULOGY | "BEAUTIFUL ON THE INSIDE" - PASTOR BOBBY LEWIS
JOHN 15:5-8

SELECTION | "I CAN ONLY IMAGINE" - THE BOBBY LEWIS ENSEMBLE

CLOSING PRAYER | PASTOR BOBBY LEWIS

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Obituary

Jonathan Melchizedek Kemp Jr., more popularly known as "Johnny Kemp" was the seventh of 10 children. Born on August 2, 1959, Johnny was the perfect product of the union of his loving mother Mochrie Cornell and his charismatic father, Johnathan Melchizedek; his mother, the pastor's daughter, and his father, the famous entertainer. This union formed the base of his life-long character: a God-fearing nature and childlike faith; unconditional love, strong family bond and devotion, and an undying love and passion for music.

His parents and family knew from birth that he would be "someone special"; his golden hair, dynamic personality, and that stunning singing voice. He was the "golden child". "Raised in a tightly knit Christian family" Kemp's mother was his greatest influence, and she ensured a Godly foundation for her son. His singing career began at the age of 7 in a small church in the Grove, in his then hometown, Nassau, Bahamas. He and his singing siblings would all amaze the congregation as their mother beamed with pride. Word of Johnny's talent spread through the island and people from all over fought for him to perform at churches, schools, organizations, and nightclubs. "Little Johnny" began performing all over "Nassau Town". He performed with his singing sister, Minerva at talent shows at Government High & Garfunkel Auditoriums, the Banana Boat Nightclub, and the Central Highway Club with people like "Little Eddie", "Smokey 007", "Pricilla Rollins" and many others. He and his sister "wowed" the crowd at many talent competitions and would always walk away with the "winnings"! By the age of 11, while attending Government High School, Johnny began singing professionally in Night Clubs on Paradise Island where he first performed professionally and gained an income which was remarkable for someone at his age.

In 1973, Johnny and his family relocated to Grand Bahama. He attended the Freeport Anglican High School (now known as Bishop Michael Eldon) where he continued to showcase his talent as singer, dancer and entertainer. He took to the high school stage with MC David Wallace, fire dancer, David Bowen and performed numerous duets with Crystal Cumberbatch. He worked closely with talent show organizer, Lois Seiler, who promoted his talents and explored his acting talent in the theatrical rendition of the musical, "Oliver Twist" at the Regency Theater. In 1976, Kemp took the stage as one of the headliners at the Casino Show along with Bahamian singer Jay Mitchell, at the then popular, Bahama Princess Resort and Casino. While there, he travelled abroad to many places performing. Kemp also dazzled the crowd at the "Joker's Wild" and various events in Freeport, Grand Bahama.

In the summer of 1977, after returning from Europe, Johnny was again propositioned by leader, Joseph "Kinky" Fox, who was patiently awaiting a favorable response to join his band "The Fox Fire". Fox recalls listening to Johnny warm-up his voice with one of his favorite Stevie Wonder songs "You and I" every morning before the band recorded at Frank Penn's studio "Sultan". Mr. Penn, the president of the Entertainers Union, was instrumental in booking the band for a 30-day performance at the highly acclaimed Lowe's Resort and Casino on Paradise Island in Nassau, now Atlantis. That year the group won the "Music Makers Award" for "Best Group of the Year".

The hotel was so impressed with the group's performance that they requested a 30-day encore performance in the summer of 1978; it was a "sell out" show! From there the "Fox Fire Band featuring Johnny Kemp" grew in popularity and was highlighted in Grand Bahama's big show at the Goombay Park with childhood friend; and then emceed by Obie Wilchcombe. Johnny was in his element on the stage. His whole demeanor portrayed his love for music and his energy was contagious. He attracted many to watch and experience his star-studded shows in person.

JOHNNY'S BODY OF WORK CONTINUED...

1995	TRIBUTE TO ROSA PARKS	VOCALS (BACKGROUND)
1994	80'S GREATEST ROCK HITS, VOL.10: DANCE ALL NIGHT	COMPOSER, PERFORMER, PRIMARY ARTIST
1994	CATWALK SPECIAL EFX	VOCALS (BACKGROUND)
1994	FUNKTASTIC JAMS	COMPOSER, PERFORMER, PRIMARY ARTIST
1994	JEWELS CIELE MINUCCI	FEATURED ARTIST, VOCALS
1994	KALIK BAHAMEN	COMPOSER
1993	CELEBRATING THE MUSIC OF DON COVAY	PRIMARY ARTIST, UNKNOWN CONTRIBUTOR ROLE, VOCALS (BACKGROUND)
1993	I'M NO ANGEL CAROLE DAVIS	VOCALS BACKGROUND
1993	PEOPLE GET READY: A TRIBUTE TO CURTIS MAYFIELD	VOCAL HARMONY, VOCALS
1993	POWER JAMS: TODAY'S HOTTEST HITS	PERFORMER, VOCALS
1992	IN Z MOOD DOUBLE Z	GUEST ARTIST, VOCALS
1992	MASTERCUTS: NEW JACK SWING, VOL. 2	PRIMARY ARTIST
1992	PLAY SPECIAL EFX	GUEST ARTIST, VOCALS, VOICES
1992	THE SOUL OF R&B REVUE: LIVE AT THE LONESTAR ROADHOUSE	PERFORMER, PRIMARY ARTIST, UNKNOWN CONTRIBUTOR ROLE
1992	WHEN ONLY A FRIEND WILL DO MIKE DAVIS	COMPOSER
1990	TEENAGE MUTANT NINJA TURTLES {1990 SOUNDTRACK}	PRIMARY ARTIST
1990	WONDERFUL ONE VANESSA BELL ARMSTRONG	VOCALS (BACKGROUND)
1989	SING {ORIGINAL SOUNDTRACK}	PRIMARY ARTIST, UNKNOWN CONTRIBUTOR ROLE
1987	GLENN JONES GLENN JONES	GUEST ARTIST
1987	LOVE CHANGES KASHIF	VOCALS (BACKGROUND)
1987	SECRETS OF FLYING JOHNNY KEMP	ARRANGER, COMPOSER, ENGINEER, MIXING, PRIMARY ARTIST, PRODUCER, RAP VOCAL ARRANGEMENT, VOCALS
1986	JOHNNY KEMP JOHNNY KEMP	COMPOSER, VOCAL (BACKGROUND)
1982	SHARING YOUR LIFE CHANGE	COMPOSER, VOCALS (BACKGROUND)
	CRAVE, VOL. 6: MIXED BY DJ HAVANA BROWN	PRIMARY ARTIST
	DISCO GLANTS, VOL. 1-10	COMPOSER, PRIMARY ARTIST
	KARAOKE: BOYS BOYS BOYS, VOL. 2	COMPOSER, LYRICIST
	OLD SCHOOL GOLD BOX SET	COMPOSER, PRIMARY ARTIST, PRODUCER
	PURE SWING {UNIVERSAL 2013}	PRIMARY ARTIST
	UPTOWN SATURDAY NIGHT: CLASSIC R&B JAMS	PRIMARY ARTIST
	UPTOWN SATURDAY NIGHT: JUMP TO IT	PRIMARY ARTIST