

YORK WILBORN, SR.

York Edwin Wilborn, Sr. (1938 - 2020) was born in Little Rock, Arkansas in 1938. He graduated from Horace Mann High School in 1957 and earned a Bachelor's degree from Arkansas AM&N College (now the University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff). His musical career began at Dunbar High School where he concentrated on the saxophone and flute and formed a band known as *The Thrillers* during his ninth-grade year.

While in college, Wilborn continued performing with *The Thrillers* and the AM&N College Jazz Band, *The Golden Lions*. His band served as the house band for *Center Stage*, the first weekly live television program on KATV hosted by Charles Bussey, for a young black audience in the Arkansas. Over the years, *The Thrillers* included several Arkansas Jazz Hall of Famers including Henry Shead, Ben Pruitt, TeRoy Betton and Pharoah Sanders. Wilborn co-wrote "Love Made A Fool Of Me" with Henry Shead for the rocker Jerry Lee Lewis and is also credited with composing "When I Get Paid" for Lewis.

York taught 28 years in the Marianna School District with assignments at Anna Strong High School and Marianna High School. During this time, he continued performing on weekend and mentoring many young educators and aspiring musicians. He later formed the group *Psychedelic Six* and remained an influential figure in the Ninth Street music scene. Wilborn was recognized as a versatile, multi-genre musician whose impact extended across education and performance.



