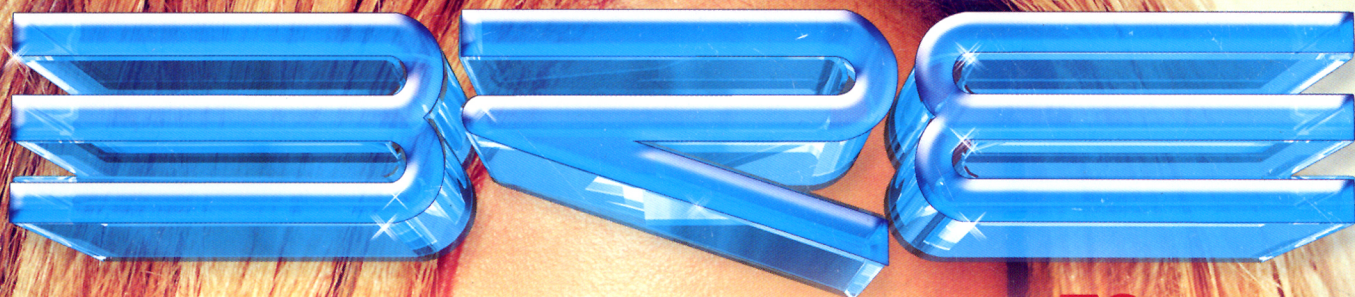


# BLACK RADIO EXCLUSIVE



BLACK ENTERTAINMENT'S PREMIER MAGAZINE FOR **36** YEARS

www.bkmmagazine.com

## IN CELEBRATION

### Etta James

(January 25, 1938 – January 20, 2012)



Rev. Al Sharpton conducted the services for the late Etta James at Greater Bethany Community Church, City of Refuge, relating how James helped break down the culture curtain of America before the Civil Rights Act of 1964. "She was able to get us to sing the same rhythms and melodies ... humming the same ballads and understanding each other's melodies way before we could even use the same hotels." Sharpton also conveyed President Barack Obama's sentiments for whom Beyoncé performed James' immortal song "At Last" as his inaugural festivities: "Etta will be remembered for her legendary voice and her contributions to our nation's musical heritage."

Such was the homecoming of one of America's legendary voices as James' back up band, The Roots, Stevie Wonder and Christina Aguilera joined in the farewell. Both Stevie and Christina performed some of James' iconic hits: Stevie did "Shelter in the Rain" while Christina delivered "At Last."

Survived by her husband of 42 years Artis Mills and two sons, Donto and Sametto James, Etta was thronged by many of her fans who waited in line for hours at her public viewing at Inglewood Cemetery with her songs wafting over the line.



Christina Aguilera sang "At Last"

Added Rep. Maxine Waters (D-Los Angeles), "Etta is special to me because she represents the life, the trials and the tribulations of a lot of black women all over this world.... She was a survivor, and I love her for that."

The Recording Academy President/CEO Neal Portnow issued this statement about the three-time Grammy winner and Recording Academy Lifetime Achievement Award recipient: "Etta James leaves behind a dynamic legacy spanning six decades. Her music knew no

boundaries as she explored diverse genres including blues, soul, R&B, rock and roll, gospel and jazz. She will forever be remembered for her timeless ballad "At Last," and a powerful voice that will echo around the world for generations to come."

Artists from around the world expressed their sentiments via websites, tweets and in performance. Beyoncé, who played Etta in "Cadillac Records," wrote: "Etta James was one of the greatest vocalists of our time. I am so fortunate to have met such a queen. Her musical contributions will last a lifetime. When she effortlessly opened her mouth, you could hear her pain and triumph. Her deeply emotional way of delivering a song told her story with no filter. She was fearless, and had guts." Pink wrote, "Your voice and your fight inspired me and many. I love that through recordings, people can live forever." While Kelly Clarkson covered James' "I'd Rather Go Blind" at her performance at Radio City Music Hall.

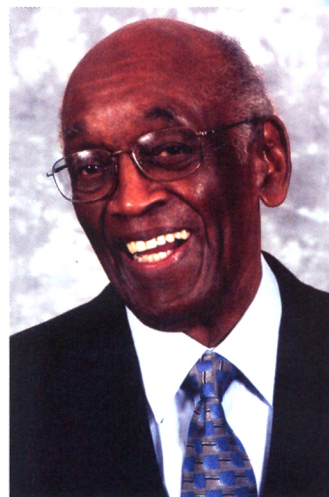
### John Levy

(April 11, 1912-January 20, 2012)

Recognized in 2006 by the National Endowment for the Arts with its highest jazz honor as a Jazz Master, John Levy was just a few months short of turning 100 when he died at his home in Altadena, California with his wife and business partner, Devra Hall Levy, by his side. And, although born in New Orleans, Levy credits Chicago where his family moved when he was five, with his formative years in the music business from their apartment above the Royal Gardens, a dance hall that featured New Orleans jazz. Gaining a foothold in the Chicago jazz scene as a musician, Levy performed with such jazz greats as Stuff Smith, Billie Holiday, Erroll Garner and Billy Taylor before joining pianist George Shearing's original quintet where his next career as a personal manager took root and the eventual launch of John Levy Enterprises in 1951.

The accomplished jazz musician had walked the walk so he could successfully talk the talk for his fellow jazz artists. That soon became evident to artists like Betty Carter, Abbey Lincoln, Shirley Horn, Ahmad Jamal, Ramsey Lewis, Freddie Hubbard, Roberta Flack, Les McCann, Joe Williams, Cannonball Adderley, Wes Montgomery and Nancy Wilson, who sought him out to manage their careers.

Levy was inducted into the International Jazz Hall of Fame in 1997 and presented a Lifetime Achievement Award from the Los Angeles Jazz Society. And in keeping with his well-thought out plans, there was no funeral service, but just a private remembrance with the request that donations be made to the MCG Jazz John Levy Fund, which is earmarked for the Manchester Craftsmen's Guild's nationwide "Jazz Is Life" educational programs.



Stevie Wonder performed "The Lord's Prayer"