

## In Memoriam - Don Palmer

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on behalf of  
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### **In Memoriam - Don Palmer**

The Fountain School of Performing Arts and the Dalhousie musical community regrettably acknowledges the passing of former faculty member and Canadian jazz legend, Don Palmer.

It is rare in one's lifetime that a person gets to cross paths with someone like Don. His musical mastery, clever wit, and infectious charm had a positive, everlasting influence on everyone he met. Don lived and breathed music, and his honest and organic approach created it in the true sense of the word. His ability to communicate through his music invoked a uniquely special bond with his fellow musicians and music lovers alike, who heard him in his countless live or recorded performances. This emotional energy was enhanced if you were fortunate enough to engage with him personally. As an extension of this, Don was a natural educator. His focus was on the sound and energy that music creates while promoting the melody as a vehicle for improvisation.

During his 26-year tenure as director of jazz studies at Dalhousie's department of music (1978 to 2004), Don laid the cornerstone for countless musicians to pursue their musical dreams. He believed that everyone had a unique voice that should be heard and by sharing this philosophy and his gift of music he inspired everyone that he encountered. This along with his involvement in numerous musical and community organizations solidifies a legacy that will influence Canadian music for generations to come.

It's cliché perhaps, but the world is a better place because of Don Palmer, and we are so very fortunate to have known him.

CBC link:

<https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/nova-scotia/don-palmer-jazz-legend-dies-cape-breton-1.6291825>