

CLAUDE CARRIERE, RIP

### **Jazz loses one of its pillars in France.**

It is with a heavy heart that I share the news of the death of Claude Carriere, a personal friend, and one of the leading advocates of the music of Duke Ellington. He died Saturday at the age of 81 following a heart attack, said François Lacharme, the current president of the Jazz Academy.

Born in March 1939, originally from Rodez, in Aveyron, he moved to Paris in the late 1950s. A key figure in the French jazz landscape, his credentials and accomplishments were numerous:

- Producer, France Musique (1975-2008)
- Co-host of the weekly program *Jazz Club de France Musique*, from 1982-2008
- Producer and host, *Tout Duke* (1976-84): 400 radio episodes exploring Ellington's *oeuvre*
- Journalist for *Jazz Hot* (1969-80)
- Writer for *Jazzman* magazine
- President, the Académie du Jazz (1993-2004)
- Chair, Grand Formats Association (2008-2011), working for the recognition of big bands in France

As a pianist, he recorded two albums for the Black & Blue label: *Looking Back* and *For All We Know*, with singer Rebecca Cavanaugh.

At the time of his death, he was Honorary President of the Académie du Jazz and President of the Maison du Duke.

Said Arnaud Merlin, producer at France Musique and programmer for Radio France, "His main quality was that, as he was a musician himself, he spoke on an equal footing with musicians. He spoke English very well, so he had an extremely strong relationship of trust and complicity with the musicians."

John W. Hasse

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