

**Lifetime Achievement Awardee
Donald Byrd – 2005**

Dr. Donald Byrd is a world-renowned jazz musician, scholar and educator. Dr. Byrd's accomplishments in the world of Jazz Music are legendary, not only as a musician, but also an educator.

Dr. Byrd served in the United States Air Force, received a bachelor's degree in music from Wayne State University, a master's degree in music from the Manhattan School of Music, a law degree from Howard University and a doctorate from Columbia University.

Dr. Byrd was a member of many different musical groups, including Art Blakey's Jazz Messengers and played with highly regarded jazz musicians. He gained an international reputation in the 50s through jazz festivals in Belgium, Scandinavia and France. Moving towards rhythm and blues, he worked alongside the Mizell Brothers, producing some of their record label's highest-ever selling albums. Dr. Byrd was known to experiment with hard bop, electronics and funk rhythm, allowing his music to become funkier and more aggressive. Despite all of his experimentation in music, Dr. Byrd continued to focus on learning more about music, including African music and teaching his knowledge to others.

As an educator, Dr. Byrd has taught at Rutgers, Howard University, New York University and the Hampton Institute, working diligently to make jazz and its history part of the college curriculum. Dr. Byrd is currently teaching music and African-American history at the University of Delaware and is a resident of our capital city. Dr. Byrd was honored with the sixth Connecting Generations Lifetime Achievement Award.