

# I Want a Jazz Funeral-I

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I want a jazz funeral,  
like they did in New Orleans,  
thick with sounds, with  
voices singing, talking  
and rapping, squawking  
and even squabbling;  
with exquisite costumes.

I want a jazz funeral,  
like they might a done  
in Harlem or Chicago or  
the South Side anywhere  
rejoicin and romancin  
fillin the air with life.

You bet, I want a jazz funeral  
to do justice to life  
and to lead me down  
to where I'm gone  
now that I belong  
to that train of ancestors,  
besters and worsters.

And what is a jazz funeral  
you're shure to ask?  
religious, prodigious,  
emblematic, systematic, hippocratic?  
Don't you mess with me,  
lest, a la Ali, you might get stung.  
Don't ya just know I been there?  
I know a jazz funeral when I see one.

This jazz funeral needs an electric bassoon,  
a guy playing a spoon on a washboard,  
Tore's bones, lots a sax o phones,  
good vibes,  
cornets, snares, a kettle,  
add a chorus a stinging nettles  
and boil down a thick hot cajun sauce  
with a tripod of bandonios.

Sounds so good, you can almost eat it  
a righteous blues, some a big mamma too.

And a piano man, like that big guy, playing on Monk.  
This ain't a one act scene, it goes on an on and over  
from night into day till the hard stuff breaks away  
and essences effervesce  
into the rising heat waves of the morning.

Who the hell wouldn't want a jazz funeral  
to honor their passing  
to hallow existence  
to praise their glories?  
Are you that humble being that cares not  
what you leave behind  
as remembrance, as signage,  
as memory, as history?  
Not I sir, not I.

I want a no holds barred jazz funeral  
right in the middle of the universe  
of human trials and tribulations and pain and suffering.  
Stop the world, I tell you.  
Not that my passing is important  
but so's I can issue my demand to the end,  
to end the affliction of human inflictedness.  
To dream that our fight will go on.....boca raton..  
And my jazz funeral  
from Guguletu, Soweto to Los Angeles  
is here  
to let you shout out your own demands too.