



## Thomas James O'Donnell

March 3, 1939 - March 6, 2020

O'Donnell, Tommy (Jazz pianist/songwriter) Age 81, of Edina, passed away at home March 6, 2020. Honored by KBEM 88.5FM as 2019 MN Jazz Legend, Tommy (Thomas James) was revered by musicians, friends & fans for his musical originality; his other worldly harmonies, deep swinging groove, rich sound, elegance, romance & whimsy. Plus, his authentic curiosity & interest in each person he connected with, a man of faith. Tommy played with & knew many of the greats. While he was renowned for his ability to capture the magic of Erroll Garner's style, his own style was ethereal, harmonically provocative & original. Preceded in death by parents, Thomas T. & Helen F. O'Donnell. Survived by wife Deborah O'Donnell Cheney, daughter Mary Schmidtke (Jim) & grandchildren; sisters/brother-in-law Becky Hoops (Greg), Sara Cheney, Bob Cheney (Denise), many nieces, nephews, relatives, friends. Private interment. In lieu of flowers, donations preferred to KBEM 88.5FM in honor of "MN Jazz Legends: The Elders". [washburn-mcreavy.com](http://washburn-mcreavy.com)

O'Donnell, Tommy Services Cancelled (March 26-27) Celebration of Life service will be planned in the future

# Cemetery Details

## **Resurrection Cemetery (Mendota Heights)**

2101 Lexington Avenue South  
Mendota Heights, MN 55120-1211