

## THE SERMON

When I saw the limo pull around the corner, headed towards my apartment and slow down, I knew it was King, that's his style... the long black stretch thing.

I stood outside of my apartment waiting for him on this important day. He asked me to go with him to Prince's funeral and I said I would go. The driver slowed to a stop and I got in. I slid in the back seat just as he pressed the button closing the window that separates the passengers from the driver. They had been talking.

"His wife called me and asked me to speak at his funeral", he whispered, when I got in the back seat next to him. I nodded that I understood and squeezed his hand. It was just us in the car too big for just two people. But again, that's King's style, always over the top.

King is the great King Erisson, renowned Congo player with Neil Diamond's band. He is the most recorded congoist in the history of pop and jazz music. In the late sixties he set the standard for recording pop records. His credits read like a "who's who" of the pop and jazz world. From the early days with Cannonball Adderley and other jazz groups to Motown's venture to Hollywood, King held down the afro/Cuban rhythm seat. He was so great that every Congo player in the recording industry today... takes a little of "The King" with them when they record, whether they realize it or not. Playing like King, they can't go wrong. But this morning he's in a more reflective and solemn mood: His protégé; "Prince Newt" passed away.

King took Prince under his wing when he found the youngster hanging out backstage at a local club where he performed. The young man begged for King to teach him to play.

Darrel Newt was a tall young aspiring Congo player who became fascinated by "The King." He waited outside the back door every night for the congo great to pass by and just say "hello" to him. For some reason Newt won the Congo Master's attention and King agreed to teach him to play the congo drums. But, first he had to give him a name; Darryl was too ordinary for a protégé of the king. So, Darryl Newton became "Prince Newt" disciple of "King Erisson."