

Image not found or type unknown

‘Ancient of Days’, ‘Majesty’, ‘God Is Able’: Gospel Pioneer Ron Kenoly Dies at 81, Leaving a Global Legacy of Worship

Ron Kenoly, whose live worship recordings and multicultural praise anthems helped define contemporary Christian worship worldwide, passed away at 81, leaving behind a catalog of songs that continue to unite congregations across generations and cultures.

Faith / **Published On February 04, 2026 06:03 AM /**

Staff Consortium **February 04, 2026**

Image not found or type unknown



Gospel Music icon Ron Kenoly.

The Christian community is mourning the death of Ron Kenoly, a pioneering worship leader whose songs helped shape contemporary praise and worship across denominations and continents. Kenoly died on February 3, 2026, at the age of 81, a fact confirmed by his longtime music director

Bruno Miranda in a heartfelt Instagram post.

No cause of death was immediately disclosed. The announcement prompted an outpouring of tributes from fans, pastors, and fellow artists around the world, many sharing clips of Kenoly's live worship moments and recalling how his music became a soundtrack for congregations large and small.

Born on December 6, 1944, in Coffeyville, Kansas, Kenoly's life traced an uncommon path from service in the U.S. Air Force to international ministry. He often spoke about how his military experience during the Vietnam era deepened his faith and commitment to God, laying the foundation for a life devoted to worship.

Kenoly's musical career gained momentum in the late 1980s, when he shifted from secular music and jazz influences into Christian worship. In 1991, he signed with Integrity Music and released his debut album, "Jesus Is Alive," launching a prolific period of live recordings that captured the energy and communal spirit of congregational praise.

Central to Kenoly's ministry was his conviction that worship was an act of service rather than performance. That philosophy resonated widely, and by the 1990s he had become a defining presence in evangelical circles, leading large worship gatherings and influencing a generation of worship leaders.

Among his most celebrated albums were "Lift Him Up" (1992), "God Is Able" (1994), "Sing Out with One Voice" (1995), and "Welcome Home" (1996)—projects often recorded live to preserve the shared experience of praise. These releases not only topped Christian music charts but also crossed cultural boundaries, with songs translated into multiple languages and sung in churches from Brazil to the Philippines.

His later works, including "Majesty" (1998) and "We Offer Praises" (1999), continued to blend upbeat rhythms with scriptural depth. Over time, Kenoly's catalog came to define modern worship, with widely used songs such as "Ancient of Days," "Lift Him Up," "God Is Able," "Mourning Into Dancing," "All Honor," "Anointing Fall On Me," "Be Glorified," "For the Lord Is Good," "Whose Report Shall You Believe," "Praise the Lord All Nations," "Give to the Lord," "Let Everything That Has Breath," and "Hallowed Be Your Name," among many others. Collections like "High Places" (1997) helped cement these songs as enduring fixtures in church repertoires.

Beyond recordings and concerts, Kenoly was known for mentoring younger musicians and advocating multicultural worship. Drawing on his African American heritage and extensive global travel, he emphasized unity in praise, a quality peers and critics frequently cited. Publications such as *The Christian Post* noted that he "helped shape how millions of people worship in churches."

Kenoly's ministry also included pastoral roles and authorship, further establishing him as a spiritual guide. In his personal life, he married Diana, a United Nations ambassador, in 2014. He had been married previously and had children from earlier relationships, maintaining a relatively private family life despite his public ministry.

Following news of his death, tributes flooded social media, with artists and worshippers alike recounting how his music brought comfort, joy, and inspiration—from small church services to large arenas. No details regarding memorial services have been announced, and his family has requested privacy.

Kenoly leaves behind a legacy that continues to echo in sanctuaries worldwide. As one of the pioneers who bridged traditional gospel and contemporary worship, his influence endures through songs that remain central to modern praise.

© Viconsortium 2026