

# AMIRI BARAKA



**Amiri Baraka** was a poet, playwright, novelist, and cultural critic whose work helped redefine African American literature in the second half of the twentieth century. Over a career spanning nearly fifty years, his writing confronted Black liberation, white racism, and the political realities of American life.

Baraka's influential body of work includes poetry, plays, essays, and criticism on society, music, and literature. Notable titles include *The Music: Reflections on Jazz and Blues (1987)*, *The Book of Monk (2002)*, and *New Music, New Poetry (1980)*. Remembered as both a literary innovator and a revolutionary provocateur, Baraka was also a committed political activist who spent much of his life advocating for African American rights and self-determination.