



T.K. Blue
AMOUR

T.K. Blue - Amour

"Amour" (Love) is my humble musical dedication to the wonderful people of Paris and France in general. It is a token to the incredible time I spent living in Paris, which afforded me the opportunity to travel extensively across the globe. I have so many beautiful memories during my sojourn in Paris and I met so many incredible people who were extremely instrumental in helping me along my journey. I am very blessed to have performed with many different musicians from a multitude of cultural backgrounds. In addition, residing in Paris enabled me to record my first project as a leader called Egyptian Oasis and take my band to Africa for three USIA State Department Tours. I would not be who I am today without these very valuable and rich experiences.

In addition, "Amour" is also my humble dedication to the loving memory of my mom Lois Rhynie. She visited me quite often in Paris and the south of France on the Cote d'Azur. To my pleasant surprise Lois decided to stay for one year in Roquebrune, which is an old village built into the mountain overlooking Monaco. Lois made her transition on September 11, 2014.

My mom had several Louis Armstrong records around the house when I was growing up in Long Island. In fact I played trumpet at the age of 8 to 10 years old. I recall a song Pops recorded called What A Wonderful World. In an interview someone asked Pops why record this song with so much fighting going on in the world. His response was "Listen to Pops my dear, love, love, love...the world would be a better place if you give it a chance...love, love, and more love"

Corinthians 13.4—Love is patient and kind; love is not jealous or boastful; it is not arrogant or rude. Love does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; it does not rejoice at wrong, but rejoices in the right. Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, and endures all things.



1) Banlieue Blue (4:28)

This tune was composed and arranged by myself while I resided in the suburbs (Le Banlieue) of Paris. Most of the culture, museums, theaters, restaurants, and concerts are concentrated within the center of Paris. There was a need to bring world-class music to the folks living on the fringe. Hence, a music festival arrived during the 1980's entitled Banlieue Blues. This festival featured international artists and there was an emphasis on Jazz concerts. In fact I performed for this festival many times in a variety of settings and formations: most notably was a concert with NEA Jazz Master Randy Weston and the Gnaoua musicians from Morocco.

2) Infant Eyes (6:45)

Composed by Wayne Shorter and arranged by T.K. Blue. Wayne is a huge influence on my musical development as a player and a composer. I was extremely lucky to hear him perform many times in Paris. Wayne was also on the sound track of the movie Round Midnight, which was filmed in Paris while I was living there in the 1980's. Children are the closest incarnation and manifestation of love!

3) Parisian Memoir (7:01)

Composed and arranged by T.K. Blue. This song serves as a personal vehicle to reminisce about the wonderful times I experienced living in Paris and

France in general. I will always have deep gratitude and appreciation for all of the incredible people I met while residing in France and for all those who helped me along my path. I must give a special thanks to the memory of Edouard Detmer, who produced my first recording as a leader in Paris.

4) A Single Tear Of Remembrance (6:40)

Composed and arranged by T.K. Blue. This song has been recorded on three previous CDs: "Rhythm In Blue" by T.K. Blue; "On The Road" by the Jazz Expressions; and "Nextep" by Benny Powell. All of these recordings are very different, while treating the melody and thematic ideas in a similar fashion. What makes this version quite unique is the outstanding piano solo interpretation by master musician Warren Wolf. He truly captures the essence of this song and it's dedication to the memory of my departed mother Lois Rhynie. Mom and I spent a lot of time together in Paris and in the south of France: Cannes and Roquebrune Village above Monaco. My memory of her visits and embracing French culture is extremely vivid. Her gentle, caring, and generous spirit is captured in the mood of this current rendition.

5) Resolution (3:59)

Composed by John Coltrane arranged by T.K. Blue. This is the second movement of Trane's iconic and legendary suite A Love Supreme. I will always be a student of Coltrane's legacy and musical creativity. He has such a profound effect upon so many musicians and non-musicians. While living in Paris I was a teacher at a jazz school directed by bassist Alan Silva called I.A.C.P. Periodically they would feature concerts by the faculty members. It was here that I performed my first solo saxophone concert. It was dedicated to John Coltrane and Thelonious Monk. David Murray was also a huge inspiration for me and he was the first saxophone player I witnessed doing a solo saxophone concert in NYC. On this rendition of Trane's composition I decided to play flute instead of saxophone. I incorporated the rhythm section with percussion and harmonica.

6) Dream Time (4:18)

Composed by Herbie Nichols and arranged by T.K. Blue. Mr. Nichols was a master pianist and composer. Much of his work is overlooked in the pantheon of great jazz pianists. Dr. Randy Weston always mentions him when citing the great masters whom he admires. Mr. Nichols composed in a way that is quite unique and challenging. His melodies evoke a story and paints pictures. For myself, Paris will always be the city of dreams!!!

7) 204 (7:52)

Composed by Dr. Randy Weston and arranged by T.K. Blue. There are no other musicians that have had such a profound effect upon my career than Dr. Weston. I started to perform with him in NYC, but our relationship solidified once I moved to Paris the end of 1981. He was residing in Annecy, France at that time and we connected to continue our musical collaboration. It started with a summer tour in July of 1982 where we opened for Wynton Marsalis's band in San Sebastian, Spain. 204 was Dr. Weston's address while living on 13th Street in the east village of NYC. My last apartment in Paris was in the 18th arrondissement and my address coincidentally was also 204. This song is sort of the reverse of his most famous composition Hi Fly.

8) Abdoulaye (Prosper) (3:06)

Composed and arranged by T.K. Blue. Brother Abdoulaye (Prosper) was his nickname) was the leader and drummer of a Senegalese group called Xalam from Dakar. I met this incredible band in Paris and we connected to perform many concerts together. In addition we recorded together and we were featured in a film entitled Marche A L'Ombre, by Michel Blanc. Xalam was destined for greatness but everything changed when Prosper was diagnosed with cancer. He passed in the mid 1980's and this is my humble dedication to his legacy. Xalam has since reunited with some of the original members and they perform in Dakar, Senegal.

9) Requiem For A Loved 1 (Part II) (5:11)

Composed and arranged by T.K. Blue. Requiem For A Loved 1(Part I) is featured on my previous CD entitled "A Warm Embrace" 2014. This song is composed in dedication to those very close to me who has since made their transition to the after-life. The current version is dedicated to my mom—Lois Rhynie as well as LaVelle, an outstanding pianist and vocalist who passed away earlier this year. I met LaVelle when I first moved to Paris. I was quite fortunate to work with her on several occasions. She is also on the soundtrack for the film Marche A l'Ombre. Requiem Part I is equivalent to the journey to the cemetery, where a more melancholy, somber music is performed. Here Requiem Part II is indicative of the journey from the cemetery when all rejoice as the spirit is free and returns to paradise.

The Tao of Healing

*It has been said, "God is Love"
Thus, the Heavens seek Love
Earth seeks Love
People seek Love
This is what makes us great.*

*People abide on the Earth
Earth abides in the Heavens
The Heavens abide in Love.
Love abides in all.
This is what makes us One.*

10) La Petite Fleur (4:41)

Composed by Sidney Bechet and arranged by T.K. Blue. Mr. Bechet is considered one of the founding fathers of jazz improvisation. He was the first to make the soprano saxophone a huge and unique instrumental vehicle for jazz expression. He along with Josephine Baker were some of the first

prominent African-American artists to immigrate to Paris. Mr. Bechet became quite famous in France and a statue of him was erected in his honor. His most famous composition is La Petite Fleur (The Little Flower). When I performed in France I was frequently asked to play this song. I was not familiar with it and most often this caused a frown from the person requesting this composition. Eventually I decided to learn it and the next time it was requested, I was happy to accommodate the demand. The couple was in tears and handed me a five hundred franc tip (\$100). This demonstrated to me the power and beauty of this song as well as the majesty of Sidney Bechet.

11) Elvin Elpus (6:01)

Composed by Melba Liston and arranged by T.K. Blue. Melba composed this song in dedication to Elvin Jones. I was truly blessed to know Melba Liston. I met her shortly after graduating from NYU in NYC. She arranged music for a concert I was part of at the United Nations featuring the legendary pianist Patti Bown. Melba and Patti were band mates with the Quincy Jones Big Band. Anytime Elvin Jones performed in Paris, I was there. While residing in Paris I had the opportunity to perform many of Dr. Weston's compositions that were arranged by Melba. They had a very symbiotic relationship, sort of like Duke Ellington and Billy Strayhorn. I had a tour with Dr. Weston in 1985 in France, which also featured an orchestra, many special guests, and Melba's arrangements. Unfortunately Melba had a stroke and could not make it. Hale Smith was her sub and he conducted the orchestra. Melba also arranged many of Dr. Weston's recordings that I am featured on. I am extremely honored and privileged that I knew Melba and I had the opportunity to play her arrangements.



T.K. Blue

Leader, composer, arranger, alto and soprano saxophones, flute, mbira, sanza, and lukembi

The following artists appear on tracks:

*1. Banlieue Blue | 2. Infant Eyes | 3. Parisian Memoir
4. A Single Tear Of Remembrance | 6. Dream Time
9. Requiem For A Loved 1 (Part 2)*

Warren Wolf: *piano and vibraphone*

Jeff Reed: *acoustic bass*

Eric Kennedy: *drums*

Roland Guerrero: *percussion on tracks 2 and 4*

Recorded at Blue House Studios in Kensington, Maryland 26 May 2016

Engineer: Jeff Gruber

The following artists appear on tracks:

*5. Resolution | 7. 204 | 8. Abdoulaye (Prospere)
10. La Petite Fleur | 11. Elvin Elpus*

Zaccai Curtis: *piano*

Essiet Essiet: *acoustic bass*

Winard Harper: *drums*

Roland Guerrero: *percussion (tracks 5 and 8)*

Gregoire Maret: *harmonica*

Etienne Charles: *trumpet (track 11)*

Recorded at Kaleidoscope Studios in Union, New Jersey 27 June 2016

Engineer Randy Crafton

Mixing and Mastering by Gene Paul at G and J Audio in Union, New Jersey

A Special Sincere Thanks Of Love and Appreciation: The Creator of Heaven and Earth; Kim, Mama Bev, Kyle, Karla, Kerrin, Kendyl, and the entire Bressant clan; Keith, Noel, Peggy, Joyce, Jacquie, Antonio, Cat, Mari, Iggy, Mason, and the entire Rhynie clan; Monique, Antoine, Olivia, and Makayla Johnson; TreSean, Marlon Junior, Chany, Jahris, and the entire Cooks clan; Debbie, Lee, Dougie, Relna, Mandy, Yoko, and all of my Trinidad cousins; Randy and Fatou Weston and the African Rhythms family; a special thank you to Jana Herzen for her guidance and assistance; Andrew, David, Michael, and the Dansr/Vandoren family USA; the entire Vandoren family in Paris; Carole Boutry and Bam musical instrument cases; Hidemasa Sato and Yanagisawa Saxophones; Ken Fujiwara; Stephanie Watt and Coyote Moon Jewelry; R. Andrew Lepley; Russ Ackerman; Mike Cherigo; Moe and Mary Cole; Cheryl and Claude Jean; Willard and Susan Jenkins; Henry and Lora Wong; George "Doc" Manning; Billy Banks; Seton Hawkins; Vinnie T; Enrico Granafei; Juanita Smith; Arnold and Anne Kolin; Sparkie Martin; Aziz Bey; Roger and Bev Lewis; Bill "Big Daddy" Saxton; Fred Foss; my entire family at Sistas Place in Brooklyn; Cheryl Mack; Jeff Gruber; Randy Crafton; and all of the incredible musicians on this date who came with such creativity, support, and love: Warren, Eric, Jeff, Zaccai, Winard, Essiet, Roland, Gregoire, and Etienne.

This recording is dedicated to the memory of my matriarch Lois Marie Rhynie December 17, 1929 to September 11, 2014







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*Produced by: T.K. Blue
Recorded at Blue House Studios, Kensington MD.
on 26 May 2016 (Tracks 1,2,3,4,6,9)
Engineer Jeff Gruber*

*Recorded at Kaleidoscope Studios, Union, NJ.
on 27 June 2016 (Tracks 5,7,8,10,11)
Engineer Randy Crafton*

*Mixed and Mastered by Gene Paul
at G and J Audio, Union, NJ.*

*Photos by: Andrew Lepley
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Imraan Khan, and Charles Jourdan.
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*All compositions by T.K. Blue except:
"Infant Eyes" by W. Shorter, "Resolution" by J. Coltrane
"Dream Time" by H. Nichols, "204" by R. Weston,
"La Petite Fleur" by S. Bechet "Elvin Elpus" by M. Liston.*



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