



T.K. Blue | The *Rhythms* Continue





“On Saturday Sept 1, 2018 we lost a true musical giant, innovator, NEA Jazz Master, and a warrior for the elevation of African-American pride and culture. His compositions, disseminating the richness and beauty of the African aesthetic, are unparalleled. Randy Weston was born during the era of extreme racism, segregation, and discrimination in the United States. His life’s mission was one of unfolding the curtain that concealed the wonderful greatness and extraordinary accomplishments inherent on the African continent.”

-T.K. Blue

Excerpt from the JAZZed Magazine Issue January/February 2019
Inmemoriam: “Randy Weston, We Will Miss You”



The *Rhythms* Continue in sequence:

1 | *Kasbah 330A (T.K. Blue) 3:51*

Dedicated to Randy's home on Lafayette Avenue in Fort Greene, Brooklyn. A "Kasbah" can be described as a fortress, safe haven, and a place to exchange ideas with people from many different backgrounds. Randy's home was like a shrine, complete with a vast library of books on Africa, the African diaspora, and African-American history, culture, and music. The posters/photographs adorning his walls reflected all of the legendary figures in music and culture with whom he had profound relationships, or in-depth knowledge about - Dizzy Gillespie, Max Roach, Melba Liston, Thelonious Monk, Benny Powell, James Reese Europe, King Oliver, Freddie Hubbard, Dr. Billy Taylor, Duke Ellington, Earl Hines, Willie "The Lion" Smith, Paul West, Cheikh Anta Diop, and the wonderful Gnawa musicians of Morocco, just to name a few. The centerpiece of his living room was his baby grand Bosendorfer piano. The delicious meals we shared at his home were quite exquisite. I will always retain fond memories of the times we shared together in his spiritual temple of African knowledge, culture, and music.

2 | *The Wise One Speaks (T.K. Blue) 2:00*

Baba Randy was a sage, imparting wisdom and guidance in subtle ways. He rarely told you what to play. Rather, he would paint a picture to inspire you. He taught by example, rather than by giving explicit directives. Dr. Weston would often tell his band it's not only about making a gig and taking a solo: "You are obliged to uplift all the folks who came to hear you perform"

3 | Going To The East (T.K. Blue) 3:32

As an undergraduate student at New York University in 1972, I was invited to attend a concert at an African-American cultural institution called The East, in Bedford Stuyvesant, Brooklyn. Dr. Weston was the headliner, performing in duo with his son Azzedin on percussion. It was the very first time I heard Dr. Weston perform and I was overwhelmed by his musicianship, his mastery of pianistic improvisational forays, his compositions, and most of all the intense musical symmetry with his son. They both knew exactly where the other was heading musically, and they complimented each other in such a profound and spiritual way. It was the first time that I had heard a father/son duo performing live. Their music was on a different level entirely - a symbiotic relationship that transcended the norm.

4 | Night In Medina (Randy Weston) 3:16

This composition comes from Dr. Weston's Blue Moses LP on CTI Records, 1972, which was his most lucrative recording project. A medina usually refers to old or ancient areas of Moroccan and other Middle Eastern cities. The medina or souk is where you find all the traditional vendors and sellers of spices, food, clothes, artifacts, cultural items, musical instruments, and much more. Morocco was like a second home for Dr. Weston, who lived in Tangiers for several years. It was here that he opened his jazz club called African Rhythms.



華



5 | Kucheza Blues (Randy Weston) 5:36

This is the 4th movement from Dr. Weston's suite Uhuru Afrika, recorded in 1960. Melba Liston wrote the arrangements while Langston Hughes wrote the lyrics. This LP features many luminary and legendary jazz artists, who were also close friends of Dr. Weston. The first and only time I recorded this composition with Randy was on Volcano Blues – Verve Records, 1993.

6 | Insomnia (Melba Liston) 2:54

It's difficult to speak about Dr. Weston without acknowledging the trailblazing Melba Liston, his chief arranger. They shared a profound relationship similar to that of Duke Ellington and Billy Strayhorn. She was close with pianist Patti Bown, as they both were in the famous Quincy Jones Big Band 1960. Patti took me under her wing and gave me the opportunity to perform with her Quintet at the United Nations in the mid 1970's, for which Melba wrote the arrangements. Maestro Liston was not only an excellent arranger and composer, but also an outstanding trombonist. I recorded one of her compositions entitled "Elvin Elpus" on my Amour album – Dot Time Records, 2017.

7 | The Last Day (Randy Weston) 2:29

This is another gem from the Weston canon. I first performed this composition in 1985 with the Randy Weston Big Band in Lausanne, Switzerland.

8 | At The Crossroads Of Touba (T.K. Blue) 2:04

I travel often to Senegal throughout my career and some of these trips were with Dr. Weston. Both of us felt a deep attraction to the spiritual city of Touba. I was fortunate to perform in Dakar in 2010 for the Black Arts Festival, and I took this opportunity to visit Touba, which was intensely moving. I was also the associate producer of Dr. Weston's 2016 release, *The African Nubian Suite*, where I am featured on the composition "The Spirit Of Touba", with Kora master Saliou Souso.

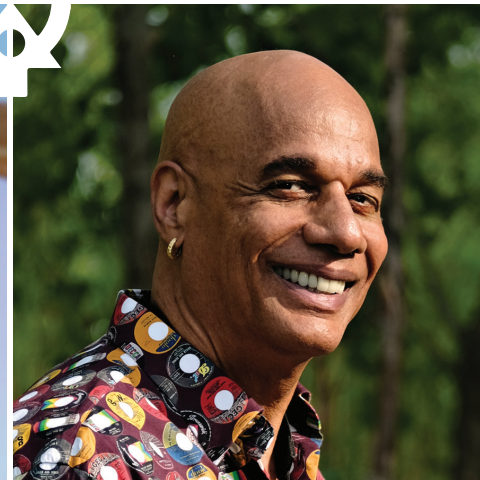
9 | A Gathering Of Elders (T.K. Blue) 1:33

It's always a blessing to be around the elders, who have the sagacity and history of life's lessons, trials, and tribulations. If we are humble and privileged, the elders will share this knowledge and guidance, which will aid us on our particular journey. Such was the case on the recording *The Spirit Of Our Ancestors* 1991. It was a remarkable gathering of jazz masters who relished in sharing their wisdom: Dizzy Gillespie, Melba Liston, Pharoah Sanders, Idrees Sulieman, Benny Powell, Dewey Redman, Jamil Nasser, Idris Muhammad, Big Black, Billy Harper, and of course Baba Randy, just to name a few. I felt extremely fortunate to be around these giants and I cherished every second on this date.

10 | Where (Randy Weston) 2:16

This is a beautiful, warm ballad from the Weston songbook for which lyrics were written by Jon Hendricks.





11 | Hi Fly (Randy Weston) 5:09

This is Randy's most well-known composition, a true jazz standard that has been recorded by a multitude of artists. I recorded "Hi Fly" on *Introducing Talib Kibwe* - Evidence Records, 1996, which features Randy on piano.

12 | Ifrane (Randy Weston) 3:15

This city is located in the Atlas Mountains in Morocco and is known as a ski resort. It was one of Randy's favorite places to visit. I also had the opportunity to visit Ifrane after a concert in the ancient city of Fez. The occasion was a festival of sacred music during the early 1990s. This composition is also featured on *Blue Moses*-CTI Records.

13 | Reverence For Those Who Came Before (T.K. Blue) 1:18

Growing up in Lakeview, Long Island without a dad, I was always open to guidance and love from various community elders. They shared their time and acumen, and ultimately helped me blossom into manhood - Conrad Buckner (AKA Little Buck, who was a fantastic tap dancer featured on the Ed Sullivan Show), Billy Mitchell (a great tenor saxophonist with Count Basie and Dizzy Gillespie), Roger and Beverly Lewis (Roger was an excellent architect who designed Milt Jackson's home in Queens), and Randy, who probably had the most profound influence on me. I first met Randy around 1978 while performing with South African pianist Abdullah Ibrahim in a concert that took place at Ornette Coleman's Artist House in Soho. Randy attended the show with his father, who was in a wheelchair. You could feel the deep reverence and appreciation Randy had for his patriarch, Frank Edward Weston.

14 | Just Waiting: A Sister's Lament (Melba Liston) 4:42

This is another gem from Melba Liston's pen! It should be noted that while Melba was an outstanding trombonist and arranger, she was also a very gifted composer.

15 | Faith For Those Who Come After (T.K. Blue) 1:31

Our youth are our future, and when given the keys to success, they will carry the torch forward to create, innovate, and evolve beyond our imagination. We must trust and believe in their voice and support their goals. This was Dr. Weston's cherished principle. He allowed his musicians to create and express themselves on the bandstand without any inhibition.

16 | Dinner Chez Gladys (T.K. Blue) 6:16

Chez is pronounced "Shay" and means home in French) I will always remember the wonderful dinners Randy's sister Gladys would host for us after our astonishing tours, which trombonist Benny Powell aptly dubbed "adventures." I also had the extreme pleasure of meeting Randy's mom, Vivian, at these dinners. Both Vivian and Gladys loved to watch us devour their delightful meals, specially prepared with love and kindness. Gladys was Randy's older sister and often looked out for her younger brother.

17 | Uncle Nemo (Randy Weston) 1:52

This obscure gem was recorded in 1960. However, it was never released until Mosaic Records made it available only a few years ago. The original date featured Randy Weston on piano, Cecil Payne on baritone sax, Ron Carter on bass, and Roy Haynes on drums. Wow, what a band!!

18 | A Solo Journey To Paradise (T.K. Blue) 1:31

It's inevitable that all of us will make our transition from the physical to the spiritual realm. Our greatest blessing is to not be burdened with illness, discomfort, or extreme pain. To transition smoothly and quickly without affliction is a gift from God. Dr. Weston was truly blessed to have a transition free from suffering or any prolonged sickness.

19 | World 3: The Last Goodbye (T.K. Blue) 5:03

Dr. Weston deserves credit for embracing the concept of World Music very early in his career, going back to the 1950's. He was among the first to incorporate traditional instruments from different cultures into the jazz aesthetic.

The last time I saw Randy was on August 18, 2018. I spent time with him at his home, along with friends and family. We had such a wonderful experience together, and the room exuded love and positive vibrations. This memory will always remain etched in my heart and soul. The laughter and smile on his face has given me the strength to move onward. I will always cherish the love, warmth, generosity, and musical experiences we shared. The dignity and pride he exhibited will be my guiding light. Baba Randy lives on in myself, and many others. The world is a better place because of his life and legacy.

All compositions by T.K. Blue are under Talib Kibwe Publishing Sesac
All compositions by Dr. Randy Weston are under Totem/Mayflower Music
INC ASCAP

All compositions by Melba Liston are under Prentiss-Clark Music ASCAP
Recorded February 24th 2019 at Kaleidoscope Sound in Union City, NJ
Engineer and mixed by Kyle Cassel

Mastered May 6th 2019 at G and J Audio in Union City, NJ by Gene Paul

Producer: T.K. Blue

Associate Producer for tracks 1, 3, 5, 11, and 16: Willie Williams

Executive Producer: Kim Bressant-Kibwe

Photography: Enid Farber, Jason Miller (photograph of Chief Baba Neil
Clark, and Cheung Ching Ming (photograph of Randy Weston and
Melba Liston)

Liner Notes: T.K. Blue

Liner Notes Editor: Judith Humenick

Graphic Artist: Lafiya Watson

Videoographer: Chris Mack from Mack Digital

T.K. Blue endorses Vandoren saxophone reeds and mouthpieces exclusively
and Yanagisawa saxophones. T.K. also uses BAM instrument cases for flute,
alto and soprano saxophones.

Please visit us at JAJA Records P.O. Box 8396 Jersey City, New Jersey 07308

Additional titles also available on JAJA Records by T.K. Blue: Rhythm in
Blue, Follow The North Star, Latin Bird, and A Warm Embrace.

Website: tkblue@comcast.net

Twitter: @RealTKBlue | **Facebook:** T.K.Blue | **Instagram:** saxmanblue

Skype: saxmanblue1 | **Email:** tk@tkblue.com

Acknowledgements:

I want to give a huge thank-you to the Creator, and much appreciation for allowing me the opportunity and means to honor Baba Randy. My sincere gratitude to my family, extended family, and friends for their continued love and support: Kim, Mama Bev and the entire Bressant Clan, Monique, Antoine and the Johnson Clan, TreSean Cooks and the Cooks Clan, my ancestor Lois Marie Rhynie and the entire Rhynie Clan plus all of my Jamaican and Trinidadian cousins, the Weston Clan, the Farella Clan, the Liston Clan, David Gould plus Andrew Hadro and Dansr/Vandoren, Hidemasa Sato and Yanagisawa, Willard and Suzan Jenkins, Henry Wong, George Manning, Aziz Mitchell-Bey, the Junaita Smith Clan, Robin-Bell Stevens and Jazzmobile INC, Russ Ackerman, Carole Boutry, Mike Cherigo, Judith Humenick, Daoud David Williams, Mary Cole and Moe, Cheryl Jean and Claude, plus the Kolin and Pelage Clans from France.

I want to acknowledge the extraordinary artists who gave so much of their energy and spirit to grace this tribute and demonstrate the influence of the Weston canon: African Rhythms alumni Billy Harper, Alex Blake, Neil Clarke, Vince Ector, Min Xiao Fen; and the extraordinary pianists Sharp Radway, Kelly Green, Keith Brown, and Mike King.

I also wish to dedicate this project to the memory of my departed brother and fellow reedman Fred Foss, as well as the oldest daughter of Dr. Weston: Cheryl Weston-Farella and her husband Frank, who recently made their transition to paradise.

