

The Autobiography of Randy Weston: A Master of Jazz and Social Commentary

MASTERS
of
JAZZ
April 8, 2018
Ironwood

**Southern Stardust
Big Band**
www.southernstardust.ca

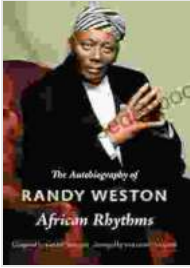
MASTERS OF JAZZ
a live concert celebrating some of the legends of big band jazz music: Duke Ellington, Count Basie, Glenn Miller, Louis Armstrong, etc.
Featured artists include: Canadian pianist, composer:
Bob Erlendson

Call 403 269 5581 to reserve, \$15 cover, doors open at noon, music from 2-4 pm
Ironwood Stage and Grill, 1229 9 Ave SE Calgary.

African Rhythms: The Autobiography of Randy Weston (a John Hope Franklin Center Book) by Randy Weston

★★★★☆ 4.7 out of 5

Language : English



File size	: 2848 KB
Text-to-Speech	: Enabled
Screen Reader	: Supported
Enhanced typesetting	: Enabled
Word Wise	: Enabled
Print length	: 350 pages



Randy Weston, a legendary jazz pianist and composer, left an indelible mark on the world of music and beyond. He fearlessly used his platform to advocate for social justice, becoming a powerful voice for the Civil Rights Movement. Weston's autobiography, published by the esteemed John Hope Franklin Center Book, offers a captivating glimpse into his extraordinary journey, revealing the profound impact of his music and activism.

Early Life and Musical Influences

Born in Brooklyn, New York, in 1926, Weston grew up immersed in a musical environment. Influenced by gospel, blues, and bebop, he began playing the piano at an early age. After studying at the Juilliard School of Music, Weston embarked on a prolific career as a jazz musician.

The Emergence of a Jazz Icon

Weston's unique musical style blended the rhythmic complexities of African music with the harmonic sophistication of jazz. He formed his own record label, African Rhythms, to promote and distribute his music, which often explored themes of social and political consciousness.

Music as a Tool for Social Change

Weston believed that music had the power to inspire social change. Through his compositions and performances, he addressed issues of racial inequality, poverty, and the struggle for civil rights. His iconic album "Uhuru Afrika" became an anthem for the Civil Rights Movement, capturing the spirit of the era.

The Autobiography: A Window into His Soul

Weston's autobiography, published in 1994, provides a firsthand account of his remarkable life and career. Co-written with author Quincy Troupe, the book offers an intimate glimpse into his childhood, musical influences, and his unwavering commitment to social justice.

Behind the Scenes of the Civil Rights Movement

The autobiography reveals Weston's close connections to key figures in the Civil Rights Movement. He played at rallies and fundraisers, using his music to galvanize support for the cause. Weston's personal encounters with Martin Luther King Jr., Malcolm X, and other leaders provide a unique perspective on this transformative period in American history.

A Composer's Journey: African Diaspora and Artistic Expression

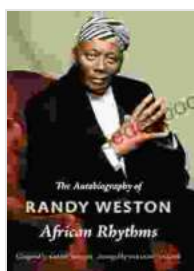
Weston's music celebrated the African diaspora, exploring the connections between African rhythms, Caribbean melodies, and American jazz. His compositions reflected his deep understanding of the shared experiences and struggles of people of African descent.

Legacy and Impact

Randy Weston's legacy as a jazz master and social activist continues to inspire new generations of musicians and activists. His music remains a

powerful testament to the transformative power of art and the importance of using one's voice for justice.

The Autobiography of Randy Weston is an invaluable resource for anyone interested in the life and work of this extraordinary artist. It offers a profound understanding of his musical genius, his unwavering commitment to social change, and his lasting impact on the world. Through his music and activism, Randy Weston left an enduring legacy that continues to inspire and empower those who strive for a more just and equitable society.



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