

RUFUS REID

Composition Biography

As a bassist, Rufus Reid commands the highest respect. As a composer, Rufus may well be enjoying a second illustrious career. These past fifteen years, Rufus Reid has been composing extensively for small and large ensembles and receiving some prestigious commissions.

The **2006 Beverly and Raymond Sackler Composition Commission Prize** was awarded to Rufus Reid. His title, *Quiet Pride*, depicts the American National Treasure, Elizabeth Catlett. Each of the four movements of this commission was inspired by Catlett sculptures that particularly moved Rufus. *Quiet Pride*, as four movements, premiered in 2007, performed by the University of Connecticut/Storrs Jazz Ensemble. In 2012, Rufus composed a fifth movement, first performed in Baton Rouge, LA. in the Manship Theater of The Shaw Center for the Arts, by the Louisiana State University Jazz Ensemble coinciding with an exhibit of Ms. Catlett's artistic works. *Quiet Pride* was recorded by a 20-piece ensemble, released by Motéma Music in 2014 and received two GRAMMY nominations in the 57th GRAMMY Awards; "Best Large Jazz Ensemble" and "Best Instrumental Composition."

In 2003, *Linear Surroundings*, a four movement work written for a nonet, was created and performed with generous support from **Chamber Music America's "New Works: Creation and Presentation Program Grant,"** and **"The Encore Program Grant" generously Funded by The Doris Duke Foundation.** This composition has been performed several times including at the Ravinia Festival, Chicago, IL.

The United States Air Force Band of the West commissioned and recorded Rufus' big band composition, *Come Out And Play*, in the spring of 2008. In the fall of 2009, the same organization commissioned him to compose for their Concert Band. The resulting composition is entitled, *Joy In The Oasis*, which was performed by the Ridgewood Concert Band in May 2013.

The **John Simon Guggenheim Memorial Foundation** awarded Rufus a 2008 Guggenheim Fellowship for composition. The resulting three-movement work, *Mass Transit*, was debuted by the Idyllwild Arts Academy Symphony Orchestra in Idyllwild, CA, and Los Angeles, CA, on May 7 & 8, 2011, conducted by Peter Askim. In New York City, on June 7, 2011, the American Composers Orchestra, conducted by George Manahan, performed the third movement of *Mass Transit*, in the Miller Theater at Columbia University. This concert culminated the Jazz Composers Orchestra Institute Workshop held at Columbia University. The prestigious **MacDowell Colony Fellowship** awarded to Rufus in June 2010, supported the opportunity to complete this composition. The University of Louisville Symphony, conducted by Kimcherie Lloyd, on February 2014, also performed *Mass Transit*.

The **ASCAP/IAJE Commission for Established Jazz Composers** was awarded to Rufus in 2007. His composition, *Hues of a Different Blue*, was premiered at the IAJE Conference in NYC that year.

When Rufus is not composing, he is performing as the leader of The Rufus Reid "Out Front" Trio. Motéma Music produced four critically acclaimed CD recordings "*Quiet Pride – The Elizabeth Catlett Project*," "*Hues of a Different Blue*," "*The Rufus Reid Trio – Out Front*," and "*Live at The Kennedy Center*" in 2014, 2011, 2010 and 2007 respectively. He is also in demand as a solo guest artist, as well as conducting high school, college, and university clinics/residencies throughout United States and abroad.

For more information you are invited to visit his web site: www.rufusreid.com