

## Rufus Reid – Biography

**“A Master Evolves--Bassist Asserts Himself as Composer”** ~Will Friedwald for The Wall Street Journal. For several years, Rufus has been taking the lead as a bandleader, and this ambitious project showcases his evolution, putting the emphasis on his compositional skills.” Motéma Music released **Quiet Pride – The Elizabeth Catlett Project** Feb 11, 2014. One day after his 70<sup>th</sup> birthday! The *Quiet Pride* CD showcases hand-picked stellar professionals and earned two GRAMMY nominations in the 57<sup>th</sup> GRAMMY Awards of 2015.

For much of his life, Rufus has performed with multiple generations of our legends of jazz. Several years ago he became a bandleader and composer. This latest release, **Quiet Pride – The Elizabeth Catlett Project** is a five movement, hour-long suite for a 20-piece orchestra. This composition is different from anything Rufus has written before. Rufus continues to step out of his box, out of his comfort zone. This composition was the result of the generosity of The Raymond and Beverly Sackler Composition Commission. It was premiered as a four-movement work at The Univ of Connecticut at Storrs where the grant was awarded. A fifth movement was composed and the suite **Quiet Pride** was premiered at The Shaw Center for the Arts in Baton Rouge, LA. It has also been performed at Bucknell University, PA, at the David Rubenstein Atrium at Lincoln Center, NYC, at The Jazz Standard in NYC and at L’Astral, as part of The Jazz en Ralafe Festival, in Montreal.

Rufus has written for string orchestra, jazz ensembles large and small, concert bands, double bass ensemble pieces and a solo bass composition. Rufus’ three-movement symphony orchestra composition, **Mass Transit**, was premiered in 2011, by The Idyllwild Arts Academy Symphony Orchestra, conducted by Peter Askim. The University Symphony Orchestra of The University of Louisville, conducted by Kimcherie Lloyd, performed **Mass Transit** in 2014.

**Caress The Thought** (solo bass) was composed for bass virtuoso Diana Gannett and is featured on her 2015 CD, “Artemis in the Oak Grove.” The orchestral arrangement of Reid’s **Caress The Thought** was performed in 2011 with soloist Joe Guastafeste, retired principle bassist of the Chicago Symphony Orchestra.

Rufus Reid is equally known as an exceptional educator. Dr. Martin Krivin and Reid created the Jazz Studies & Performance Program at William Paterson University. It was the first modern, professional grade jazz program, with prominent faculty and a focus on small ensemble performance. Reid retired after 20 years, but continues to teach, conducting Master Classes, workshops, and residencies around the world.

Rufus’ book, **The Evolving Bassist**, published since 1974, continues to be recognized as the industry standard as the definitive bass method. January 2000, the book’s Millennium Edition was published. In December 2003, **The Evolving Bassist** DVD was released. This two and one half hour DVD also offers a Concert view, featuring Mulgrew Miller and Lewis Nash.

Rufus Reid’s major professional career began in Chicago and continues since 1976 in New York City. He has toured and recorded with Eddie Harris, Nancy Wilson, Harold Land & Bobby Hutcherson, Lee Konitz, The Thad Jones & Mel Lewis Jazz Orchestra,

Dexter Gordon, J.J. Johnson, Art Farmer, Stan Getz, Kenny Burrell, Kenny Barron and countless others. He continues to record adding to his extensive discography, 18 of which are under his own name.

Reid continues to lead his "Our Front" Trio with pianist, Steve Allee and drummer Duduka Da Fonseca. He released "Out Front ~ The Rufus Reid Trio" on Motéma Records in 2010. Reid recorded with this trio again, adding guests, Bobby Watson, Freddie Hendrix, JD Allen, and Toninho Horta, releasing "Hues of a Different Blue" on Motéma in 2011.

*"Hues" (Hues of a Different Blue) should be considered a sterling, definitive exemplar of what an ideal jazz album should be—fabulous musicianship in service of the music, expansive tunes played with succinctness and restraint and variety."* Mark Keresman – Jazz Inside Magazine

Born on February 10, 1944 in Atlanta, GA., Rufus Reid was raised in Sacramento, California where he played the trumpet through junior high and high school. Upon graduation from Sacramento High School, he entered the United States Air Force as a trumpet player. During that period he began to be seriously interested in the bass. After fulfilling his duties in the military, Rufus pursued a career as a professional bassist. He moved to Seattle, Washington, where he began serious study with James Harnett of the Seattle Symphony. He continued his education at Northwestern University in Evanston, Illinois, where he studied with Warren Benfield and principal bassist, Joseph Guastefeste, both of the Chicago Symphony. He graduated in 1971 with a Bachelor of Music Degree as a Performance Major on the Double Bass.

Rufus Reid truly continues to be THE EVOLVING BASSIST.

For more information, you are invited to visit his website, [www.rufusreid.com](http://www.rufusreid.com)