

## Rufus Reid's "Quiet Pride – The Elizabeth Catlett Project" A Five-Movement Suite that Honors Elizabeth Catlett

Venerable jazz bassist and educator Rufus Reid has married his more recent evolution into jazz composition with his respect and admiration for a fellow artist in a different discipline, famed African-American sculptress Elizabeth Catlett. Reid has created five brilliant orchestral compositions inspired by Catlett's work. The result is his latest CD recording, "Quiet Pride" released by Motéma Music, February, 2014. This CD received two nominations for the 57<sup>th</sup> GRAMMY Awards! Best Large Jazz Ensemble and Best Instrumental Composition for 'Recognition' the first movement of this suite.

Reid's career has been influenced by associations with Eddie Harris (a jazz funk master), Dexter Gordon (a bebop icon), Stan Getz (a mainstay of cool jazz), J.J. Johnson (master trombonist), and Henry Threadgill (a giant of avant-garde jazz), to name a few. But in addition to his decades-long career as an artist, he spent 20 years as an educator, holding the position of Director of Jazz Studies & Performance at William Paterson University. His book, "The Evolving Bassist" has been an industry standard for jazz bassists since 1974.

Elizabeth Catlett was a remarkable artist and a civil rights activist. Because of her activism she became a victim of the Red Scare, and was declared an "undesirable alien" after becoming a Mexican citizen in 1962. Today, Catlett's work can be found in the collections of the White House, the Museum of Modern Art, and of private collections such as Bill Cosby, Oprah Winfrey, and jazz impresario George Wein.

Reid had the good fortune to become friends with Elizabeth Catlett several years before her death in 2012. The inspiration for this large ensemble work, "Quiet Pride" was Reid's fascination with five specific sculptural pieces from Catlett's collection. "You know how you can spend hours in a gallery, just letting the images sink in? I found myself responding to the shapes and lines in Elizabeth's work. While there is no 'absolute' correspondence, I do feel that she inspired me to mix my own shapes and lines," explained Reid, whose suite movements are inspired by Catlett's sculptures; Recognition, Mother & Child, Stargazer (Tapestry In The Sky), Singing Head and Glory.

This music was initially made possible in 2006 through the generosity of the Dr. Raymond and Beverly Sackler Composition Commission. Reid is extremely pleased to have had the opportunity to record this music with a hand picked stellar ensemble. The goal of "Quiet Pride" is to showcase the extraordinary life and talent of Elizabeth Catlett along with a phenomenal jazz orchestra, which will enlighten, entertain, inform and stimulate conversation and study between the arts.

Learn more about "Quiet Pride ~ The Elizabeth Catlett Project"  
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