

Rufus Reid – Performer

A seasoned professional, a visionary educator, and a composer of note, bassist Rufus Reid possesses one of the richest and most generous tones in jazz today. As an artist, Rufus Reid defines evolution and growth. On the double bass, he seems to have reached the pinnacle of mastery on his instrument only to push the melodic, rhythmic and harmonic envelope further each time you hear him.

“As a leader, he knows just how to pace a program to satisfy an audience and musicians. He reaches out and touches people – his playing is infectious. The fun starts with him on the bandstand and spills over to the audience,” noted Billy Taylor, describing Rufus Reid.

Reid’s professional career began in Chicago and continued outward to embrace the world. Having been the bassist of choice for a range of major artists, including Dexter Gordon, Stan Getz, Thad Jones & Mel Lewis, Jack DeJohnette and Nancy Wilson, Eddie Harris, Art Farmer, Hank Jones, Andrew Hill and many others, you get the sense of versatility of this man. As one of today’s premiere bassists on the international jazz scene, Reid has now taken the lead.

Reid’s illustrious career as a sideman naturally brought him to be successful as a leader. He has been leading or sharing the lead, since 1990. Reid brought “The Big Band Sound of Rufus Reid” to the Jazz Standard, NYC, in 2016. It was an overwhelming success, and inspired him to continue composing for large ensembles. Reid presented “The Big Band Sound of Rufus Reid” at Dizzy’s Club Coca Cola, Lincoln Center, NYC, 2017, with a hand-picked band of excellent musicians and music never performed in New York City, and sold out the club for four nights.

Motema Music released Rufus Reid’s “*Quiet Pride – The Elizabeth Catlett Project*” in 2014, to critical acclaim. This CD received two GRAMMY nominations in the 57th GRAMMY Awards of 2015, “Best Large Jazz Ensemble” and “Best Instrumental Composition” for ‘Recognition’ the opening movement of this suite. This music has been performed in clubs, on concert stages and universities across the country. Reid continues to present this professional large ensemble whenever possible. Their 2015 performance at The Jazz Standard, NYC, was an event! Reid presents Quiet Pride in Celebration of Elizabeth Catlett at University of Iowa, Iowa City, Iowa, October, 2018.

Always pursuing excellence, Reid continues to lead The “Out Front” Trio since 2010; Steve Allee, piano and Duduka Da Fonseca, drums. “Out Front” is a celebration of the trio’s terrific chemistry and the immense joy shared between the musicians and their audience. They have recorded two CDs and one vinyl; *Out Front -2010, and Hues of a Different Blue (with guests) -2011, Terrestrial Dance* (with strings) -2017. The Rufus Reid “Out Front” Trio formed a special relationship with Yosvany Terry in 2015. This special ensemble performs again at the Jazz Standard, NYC, in 2018.

As an improviser, Reid is certainly a genius. His long-standing band with drummer Akira Tana, TanaReid, was one of the most exciting post--bop bands of the 90s. This group toured the US, Europe and Japan. TanaReid recorded 5 CDs; *Yours And Mine -1991, Passing Thoughts -1992, Blue Motion -1994, Looking Forward -1995, Back To Front -1998.*

Reid continues to evolve with his 2017 release, "*Terrestrial Dance*," from Newvelle Records. This vinyl only release integrates The Sirius Quartet and his 'Out Front' Trio to bring to life one of his dreams.

"In the dicey milieu of jazz with strings, Reid's long experience with both genres (and their hybrids) makes the difference on *Terrestrial Dance*. He treats each piece with meticulous expressiveness, his colleagues displaying remarkable musicianship in translating the leader's vision without extraneous features. Though the approach here is straight-forward, the arrangements and playing are artistically creative and very pleasing. *Terrestrial Dance* is an excellent addition to Newvelle's eclectic and discerning catalog."
-Karl Ackermann of *All About Jazz*

-Bill Leikam, *All About Jazz* ~"If Reid is to be stylistically pigeon-holed, then he is certainly the foremost lyrical bassist alive today. The lyricism, power and the delicacy of the Rufus Reid Trio continued throughout each and every piece played that day and into the evening, as the sun sank into the Pacific. Most of the time a bass lurks in the background unless it is taking a solo, but not when Reid is playing it. When all was said and done, the audience rose to its feet with applause equal to some of the intense crescendos heard earlier in the evening, with several calls for an encore. Reid mesmerized everyone with a solo rendition of [Duke Ellington's](#) "Sophisticated Lady," with the audience snapping its fingers in time with his bass. It was the perfect way to end a grand concert as only a master jazz musician can present." ~ *The Out Front Trio*
The Douglas Beach House, Half Moon Bay, CA

-Howard Reich, *Chicago Tribune* ~

The Rufus Reid Quintet toured all over the US, Europe and Japan. During their years together, Reid recorded twice, "The Gait Keeper," released 2003 and "Live At The Kennedy Center," released 2007.

Shrewdly, Reid has chosen collaborators well-equipped to articulate his aesthetic for this group. Each of the musicians in this organization took his cue from Reid, who sounded as radiantly lyrical on this occasion as this listener ever has heard him. In solo statements, Reid produced phrases so delicately drawn and subtly nuanced as to suggest the work of a soft-spoken vocalist singing to an audience of one. In Reid's new composition, "Come Out and Play," the rhythm players achieved a cohesiveness one doesn't regularly encounter."

The Rufus Reid Quintet

The Jazz Showcase, Chicago, IL