

Rufus Reid Composition Biography

As a bassist, Rufus Reid commands the highest respect. As a composer, Rufus is enjoying a second illustrious career. Beginning in 1999, Reid began composing extensively for small and large ensembles and receiving some prestigious commissions.

Reid's latest recording, a 2017 vinyl only release from Newvelle Records, brings together The "Out Front" Trio with The Sirius Quartet. This gave Reid the opportunity to fulfill a life long desire to integrate strings into his music. The result is an audiophile's delight.

The **2006 Beverly and Raymond Sackler Composition Commission Prize** was awarded to Reid to compose for large ensemble. His title, *Quiet Pride*, depicts the American National Treasure, Elizabeth Catlett. Each of the five movements of this commission was inspired by Catlett sculptures that particularly moved Rufus. *Quiet Pride - The Elizabeth Catlett Project*, recorded by a 20-piece ensemble, released by Motéma Music in 2014, received two GRAMMY nominations in the 57th GRAMMY Awards; "Best Large Jazz Ensemble" and "Best Instrumental Composition." Reid continues to perform this music in the clubs, on the concert stage and in universities.

Reid continued his quest to learn, receiving **The John Simon Guggenheim Memorial Foundation Fellowship** in 2008, 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. The prestigious **MacDowell Colony Fellowship** awarded to Rufus, June 2010, supported the opportunity to complete this composition. *Mass Transit* has continued to be performed: The University of Louisville Symphony, conducted by Kimcherie Lloyd, in February, 2014; New Jersey City University Orchestra, conducted by Lou Kosma, December, 2017. Reid was commissioned to compose for the Raleigh Civic Symphony. *Lake Tyrrell In Innisfree* was premiered by the Civic Symphony, April, 2017. Again, the **MacDowell Colony Fellowship** was awarded to Rufus, and provided great support for the completion of this commission.

The **American Composer's Forum's CONNECT Program** commissioned Rufus to compose for the Pittsburgh New Music Ensemble. *Remembrance*, premiered by the PNME in Pittsburgh, July, 2018, in tribute to and inspiration from three exceptional composers; Thelonius Monk, Dizzy Gillespie and Leonard Bernstein, commemorating their 100th birthdays.

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**, 2003. 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*. This Concert Band composition has been performed several times.

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

Rufus continued to compose for large ensembles, and has had the privilege of bringing **The Big Band Sound of Rufus Reid** to life with performances at The Jazz Standard, NYC, 2015; The Manchester Guild, Pittsburgh, PA, February, 2017; and at Dizzy's Club Coca-Cola, NYC, 2017.

Reid has had the delightful opportunity to compose for solo bass. *Caress The Thought* was composed for bass virtuoso, Diana Gannett, and recorded 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 is also in demand composing for and leading The "Out Front" Trio. Motéma Music produced four critically acclaimed 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.