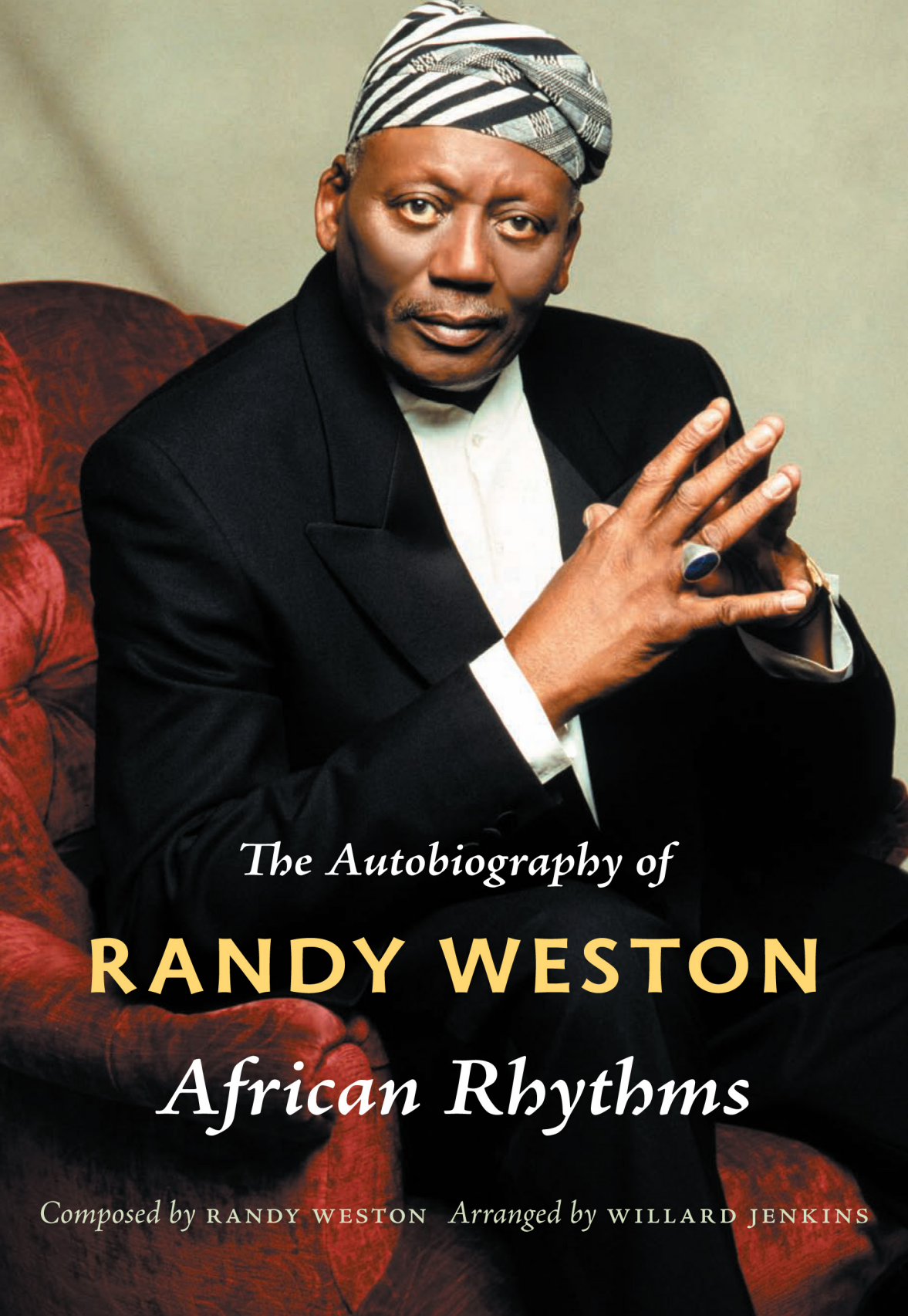




The Autobiography of

RANDY WESTON

African Rhythms

Composed by RANDY WESTON *Arranged by* WILLARD JENKINS



Celebrating Randy Weston's 85th Year

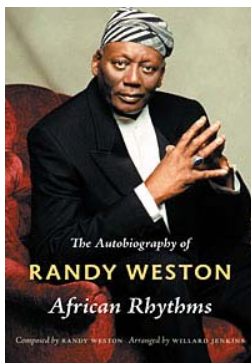
Famed Jazz Pianist Publishes Autobiography and Releases New Album

Contact: Laura Sell, Duke University Press
919-687-3639 or lsell@dukeupress.edu

In April 2011, celebrated jazz pianist Randy Weston will turn 85. Leading up to his birthday is an exciting year of events that will culminate with a celebration of his art at the Kennedy Center. This fall Weston publishes his autobiography, *African Rhythms* (Duke University Press) and releases a new album, *The Storyteller* (Motema). In November he celebrates the fiftieth anniversary of his landmark album *Uhuru Afrika* (Capitol) with a special concert that also pays tribute to the fifty years of independence of many African nations.

Packed with fascinating anecdotes, *African Rhythms* is Weston's life story, as told by him to the music journalist Willard Jenkins. It encompasses Weston's childhood in Brooklyn's Bedford-Stuyvesant neighborhood—where his parents and other members of their generation imbued him with pride in his African heritage—and his introduction to jazz and early years as a musician in the artistic ferment of mid-twentieth-century New York. His music has taken him around the world: he has performed in eighteen African countries, in Buddhist temples and Shinto shrines, in the Canterbury Cathedral, and at the grand opening of the Bibliotheca Alexandrina: The New Library of Alexandria. Africa is at the core of Weston's music and spirituality. He has traversed the continent on a continuous quest to learn about its musical traditions, produced its first major jazz festival, and lived for years in Morocco, where he opened a popular jazz club, the African Rhythms Club, in Tangier.

Weston's narrative is replete with tales of the people he has met and befriended, and with whom he has worked. He describes his unique partnerships with Langston Hughes, the musician and arranger Melba Liston, and the jazz scholar Marshall Stearns, as well as his friendships and collaborations with Duke Ellington, Dizzy Gillespie, Coleman Hawkins, Thelonious Monk, Billy Strayhorn, Max Roach, Charlie Parker, Miles Davis, the novelist Paul Bowles, the Cuban percussionist Candido Camero, the Ghanaian jazz artist Kofi Ghanaba, the Gnawa musicians of Morocco, and many others. With *African Rhythms*, an international jazz virtuoso continues to create cultural history.



African Rhythms: The Autobiography of Randy Weston
Composed by Randy Weston, Arranged by Willard Jenkins
352 pp., 51 b&w photographs
\$32.95 cloth trade. ISBN 978-0-8223-4784-2
Publication Date: November 9, 2010

Cover photograph by Carol Friedman.

About Randy Weston and Willard Jenkins



Randy Weston is an internationally renowned pianist, composer, and bandleader living in Brooklyn, New York. He has made more than forty albums and performed throughout the world. Weston has been inducted into the ASCAP Jazz Wall of Fame, designated a Jazz Master by the National Endowment for the Arts, and named Jazz Composer of the Year three times by *DownBeat* magazine. He is the recipient of many other honors and awards, including France's Order of Arts and Letters, the Black Star Award from the Arts Critics and Reviewers Association of Ghana, and a five-night tribute at the Montreal Jazz Festival.

Willard Jenkins is an independent arts consultant, producer, educator, and print and broadcast journalist. His writing has been featured in *JazzTimes*, *DownBeat*, *Jazz Report*, *Jazz Forum*, *All About Jazz*, *Jazzwise*, and many other publications. He contributed two chapters to *Ain't Nothing like the Real Thing: How the Apollo Theater Shaped American Entertainment*.

African Rhythms: The Autobiography of Randy Weston
Composed by Randy Weston, Arranged by Willard Jenkins
352 pp., 51 b&w photographs
\$32.95 cloth trade. ISBN 978-0-8223-4784-2
Publication Date: November 9, 2010

Photo by Ariane Smolderen.

Contact: Laura Sell, 919-687-3639; lsell@dukeupress.edu



Praise for Randy Weston

"The true heir to both Thelonious Monk and Duke Ellington."—**Peter Watrous**, *New York Times*

"No musician has been more devoted to exploring the connection between Afro-American classical music (jazz) and the ancestral spirits and rhythms of the African continent than Randy Weston."—**Russ Musto**, *All About Jazz*

"No matter who plays it—and anybody can—jazz is fundamentally an African American music, and no one has emphasized its African sources more than Randy Weston."—**Geoffrey Himes**, *Washington Post*

"Weston has the biggest sound of any jazz pianist since Ellington and Monk, as well as the richest, most inventive beat. But his art is more than projection and time; it's the result of a studious and inspired intelligence . . . an intelligence that is creating a fresh synthesis of African elements with jazz techniques."—**Stanley Crouch**, *Village Voice*

"Jazz has never known a master builder quite like Weston."—**Lloyd Sachs**, *Chicago Sun-Times*

"A veteran soulful pianist who has broken new ground in blending jazz with African traditions. One of the true originals, still innovating after six decades and impressing audiences with his visionary genius."—**Clive Davis**, *The Times* (London)

"The key to pianist-composer Randy Weston's consistently fresh sound is his burrowing toward the root of music. Weston's nearly forty years of creative archaeology have led him through Manhattan's 52nd Street bebop scene in the late '40s, to the southern soundscapes of jazz's blues ancestry, and all the way back to Africa."—**Jamie Kastner**, *Toronto Sun*

"[Weston's] dynamic, jagged, exuberant style, with echoes of Monk and a strong affinity with Abdullah Ibrahim, has won acclaim at jazz festivals from Japan to Montreux."—**Gwen Ansell**, *Business Day* (South Africa)

"*African Rhythms* is unlike anything I've ever read. Randy Weston—pianist, composer, bandleader, activist, ambassador, visionary, griot—takes the reader on a most spectacular spiritual journey from Brooklyn to Africa, around the world and back again. He tells a story of this great music that has never been told in print: tracing its African roots and branches, acknowledging the ancestors who helped bring him to the music and draw the music from his soul, singing praise songs for those artistic and intellectual giants whose paths he crossed, from Langston Hughes to Melba Liston, Dizzy to Monk, Marshall Stearns to Cheikh

Anta Diop. And in the process, Mr. Weston bares his soul, revealing a man overflowing with ancient wisdom, humility, respect for history, and a capacity for creating some of the most astoundingly beautiful music the modern world has ever experienced.”—**Robin D. G. Kelley**, author of *Thelonious Monk: The Life and Times of an American Original*

“Randy Weston is a magical, spiritual, ebullient, and generous soul who just happens to be one of the most original composers and pianists of the last sixty years. *African Rhythms* is his fascinating story in his own voice—a story that starts in Brooklyn and moves through the Berkshires, Africa, and Europe before returning to Brooklyn. A wonderful read.”—**Michael Cuscuna**, jazz producer and writer

African Rhythms: The Autobiography of Randy Weston
Composed by Randy Weston, Arranged by Willard Jenkins
352 pp., 51 b&w photographs
\$32.95 cloth trade. ISBN 978-0-8223-4784-2
Publication Date: November 9, 2010

Contact: **Laura Sell, 919-687-3639; lsell@dukeupress.edu**



Randy Weston's Tour and Events Schedule

2010

September 17: Rubin Museum, New York City
Solo Concert, "Harlem in the Himalayas" and book signing
<http://www.rmanyc.org/events/load/796>

September 25: Watts Tower Arts Center, Los Angeles
Randy Weston concert and book signing
<http://www.wattstowers.us/>

October 9: MoCADA, Brooklyn
Book signing
<http://mocada.org>

October 23: Brooklyn College, Brooklyn
Lecture and book signing
<http://www.brooklyn.cuny.edu/>

October 30: Tribeca Arts Center, New York City
Book signing
<http://www.tribecapac.org>

November 13: Tribeca Arts Center, New York City
Uhuru Afrika 50th Anniversary Concert
<http://www.tribecapac.org/music.htm#weston>

November 18: Bowker Auditorium, University of Massachusetts at Amherst
Solo concert and book signing
<http://www.umass.edu/fac/calendar/magictriangle/events/RandyWeston.html>

December 12: Brooklyn Museum, Brooklyn
Performance of Randy Weston African Rhythms Trio with special guest
Billy Harper and book signing
<http://www.brooklynmuseum.org/>

2011

February 26: New Jersey Performing Arts Center, Newark
Performance of Randy Weston African Rhythms Trio with Felix
Hernandez
http://www.njpac.org/show_events_list.asp

March 5: Kimmel Center, Philadelphia

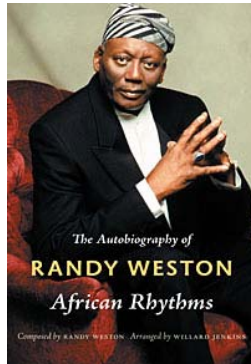
Performance of Randy Weston Quintet

<http://www.kimmelcenter.org/events/index.php?id=3758>

April 9: Kennedy Center, Washington, DC

Performance of Randy Weston African Rhythms Quartet featuring Lewis Nash

<http://www.kennedy-center.org/calendar/index.cfm?fuseaction=showEvent&event=MLJAB>



African Rhythms: The Autobiography of Randy Weston
Composed by Randy Weston, Arranged by Willard Jenkins
352 pp., 51 b&w photographs
\$32.95 cloth trade. ISBN 978-0-8223-4784-2
Publication Date: November 9, 2010

Cover photo by Carol Friedman.

Contact: Laura Sell, 919-687-3639; lsell@dukeupress.edu