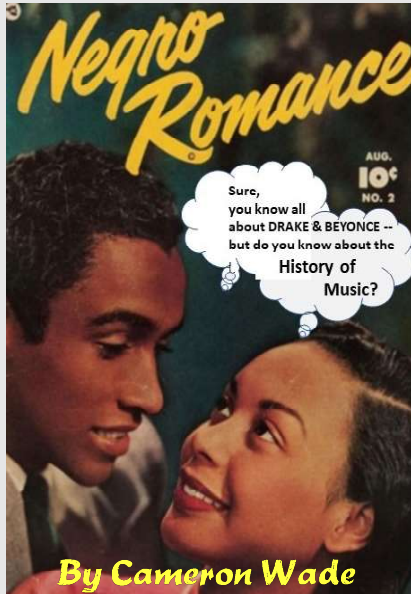




Happy Holidays! -- The 2020 sci-fi movie we've been living through has reached an encouraging chapter. A Covid-19 vaccine is on the way, so as we mourn the loved ones we've lost, let's start 2021 with a fresh appreciation for life and love...



"History Handed Down" -- Look at these two: standing at the precipice of a potentially incredible romance and yet they are concerned that their possible life partners may not know the origins of the music they both love. Why should this be an issue? In response to the question, "How important is music history?" -- I can look back at my own childhood for the answer.

My father had a custom-built stereo system. It was the most important piece of furniture in our living room.

However, there was something in the room that was much more important than the beautifully housed turntable and speakers. My father also had a great collection of jazz albums. At the age of six or seven, names like Art Blakey, Ahmad Jamal, Sarah Vaughn and Gloria Lynne were not unfamiliar to me.

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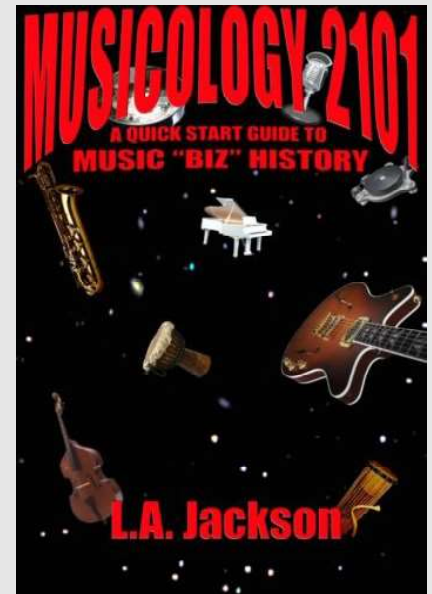


"How Important Is Music History?" -- "Throughout the history of our music, be it Gospel, Jazz, R&B, Hip Hop, or Classical we've played a vibrant part of music history and our legacy continues to grow.

I think it is important to convey our music history to both the young and old, but where music is concerned, as someone who considers it an art form, I think the younger people know more about our music history than we give them credit for. When you listen to some of today's music, it's often composed of samples or covers from an already rich music history that the young pursue for that next big sound and they will go back in history to make it happen.

Our older music lovers are more open minded when it comes to new and innovative artists but they never forget the beauty of "Old School". If music is good, it's timeless and when it's good, history will be kind

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Author L.A. Jackson combined his researching skills with his ten years of experience as Black Music Marketing Manager at Sony Music and his pure love affair with sound to complete the first two books of a series he calls **"Musicology."** To showcase an excerpt from the book, I decided to start with the story of the global musical effort, "We Are The World," beginning with Jackson's own statement on music history:

"Music history is important because it's a roadmap of how music got to where it is today. Its mankind's soundtrack of life, and to know the future, one must know the past..."

On April 5th, 1985, roughly five thousand radio stations across Africa, Asia, China, Europe and North America simultaneously played "We Are the World," a song written by Michael Jackson and Lionel Richie. This song was

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CAMOLOGY

"History Handed Down"



The Wade family and stereo

We lived in Queens, N.Y. at the time, and when we moved into a brand new house on Long Island, the stereo and Gary, the new baby, went with us. As the years went by and I had internalized all that good jazz, my siblings and I would eventually be drawn to the sound of Motown. The Miracles, The Supremes, Marvin Gaye and the Marvelettes would now be spun on the family stereo in its new spot -- the basement. That location was fine for us, because in time we would be hosts of high school "lunch time" get togethers and then full fledged parties -- courtesy of the best sounding 45s in our circle. However, what we didn't realize was that the history of our music was being etched on our brains and engraved on our souls forever...

"How Important Is Music History?"

to the art and both young and old can appreciate the contributions of the artist. I worry not about the history of music, no matter the genre, if it's good. You'll never hear discussions about horrible music and the history of it, only of the good and the valuable. When you have young ears studying Coltrane, or the riffs of Sam Cooke and it ends up being part of a collaboration between the likes of Eric Roberson and Jeff Bradshaw, it's evident that these young artists have been studying music history in order to create a new sound, just as Hip Hop artists utilized an old R&B track like Midnight Star's "Curious" to make a new smash hit for Lil Duval & Snoop Dog. "Living My Best Life" took something old and made it new. These types of celebrated efforts could not be possible if the history of their music was not present in their collective conscious minds.



K Dub The Voice

"Musicology 2101"



L.A. Jackson

produced by the legendary Quincy Jones and was based on a simple notion: to unite American recording artists and help raise money for famine victims in one of Africa's most remarkable lands -- Ethiopia. The project was deployed through the hands of Calypso music legend Harry Belafonte, a true visionary with a long track record as an advocate of several high profile civil rights and humanitarian causes. Looking back, this kind gesture took place just a year after I began my internship with the distributor of this massive project. Before we jump ahead with the "We Are the World" project, it would be advantageous to get familiarized with Mr. Belafonte's dossier. REWIND: While scores of people may think Harry, codename "Calypso Man", was born in Jamaica, he was

actually born in New York City. Belafonte's Jamaican lineage comes from his father, but he only spent about five years in Jamaica as a resident—for most of his childhood, Harry lived in the New York area. As a testimony to his musical genius, he pulled off a major musical feat: the epic recording of his 1956 release "Calypso." It featured the classic hit "Banana Boat Song" and was loaded with a signature lyric, "Day-O." Harry Belafonte's Calypso album went on to spend 31 weeks in Billboard's #1 position—that's over half a year! What modern-day album do you think can "hit the mark" like that? As monumental as it was, I can't even recall the "We Are The World" recording doing that. The "We Are The World" album spent closer to three weeks at the top chart spot; but its massive hit became the fastest-selling single in history.

(You can purchase "Musicology 2101" by L.A. Jackson at Amazon.com and other online bookstores.)

Coming Soon...

On The Next
Cameron Wade's
LEMONADE

Cameron Wade performs two songs and is joined by Dee Wade for a compelling interview with Atlanta artist and educator -- Dr. Lisa Love Whittington!

