

The Autobiography of

RANDY WESTON

African Rhythms

Composed by RANDY WESTON *Arranged by* WILLARD JENKINS



Celebrating Randy Weston's 85th Year

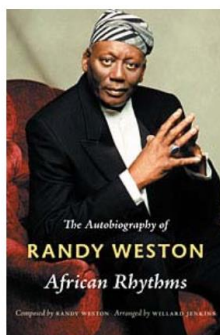
Famed Jazz Pianist Publishes Autobiography and Releases New Album

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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
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