

arts
education
njpac



rufus

reid

the david g. berger
master class series



about rufus reid

Rufus Reid is a prolific jazz bassist, composer and music educator. Born in February 1944 in Atlanta, GA, Reid was raised on the West Coast in Sacramento, CA. He was a trumpet player in his youth but went on to pick up the bass, his signature instrument, during his time in the U.S. Air Force. Reid studied bass under James Harnett from the Seattle Symphony. He also received his bachelor's degree from Northwestern University, where his mentors included Warren Benfield and Joseph Guastefeste.

He spent the early 1970s playing professional jazz in Chicago. In 1974, he wrote and published his seminal music craft book, *The Evolving Bassist*. During this time, he also played with jazz icons such as James Moody, Dizzy Gillespie and Curtis Fuller, and recorded with Dexter Gordon, Lee Konitz, Kenny Dorham and many others. In 1976, Reid moved to the East Coast and became highly influential in the New York City jazz scene, where he collaborated with Thad Jones and

Mel Lewis, performing and recording with their quartet and orchestra. Reid has recorded over 500 albums, including dozens as a leader and several with TanaReid, a group he co-led with drummer Akira Tana.

Reid is a well-respected jazz educator with decades of teaching experience for universities, arts institutions and workshops. He was the director of William Paterson University's Jazz Studies program from 1979 – 1999. Since retiring as a university professor, he has continued to teach at Jamey Aebersold Jazz Camps, the Stanford University Jazz Workshop, the Richard Davis Foundation for Young Bassists and Ravinia's Stean's Institute for Young Artists. Reid was the founding director for NJPAC's *Jazz for Teens* Program from 1998 – 2001 and an instructor for NJPAC's Milt Hinton Institute for Studio Bass, an immersive week of bass classes, performances, small ensemble work, studio sessions, lectures and workshops on the Montclair State University campus.

accolades

- Two-time GRAMMY® Award nominee
- 1999 Outstanding Educator, New Jersey Chapter of the International Association for Jazz Education
- 2000 Charlie Parker Jazz Composition Award (“Skies Over Emilia”)
- 2001 Distinguished Achievement Award, International Society of Bassists
- 2005 Mellon Jazz Living Legacy Award, Mid Atlantic Arts Foundation
- 2006 New Jersey State Council on the Arts Fellowship recipient
- 2008 Guggenheim Fellowship recipient
- 2010, 2014, 2016 MacDowell Fellowships recipient

Rufus Reid’s *Quiet Pride: The Elizabeth Catlett Project* is a five-movement suite composed, arranged and conducted for a 20-piece orchestra. The work pays homage to Elizabeth Catlett, an African American multimedia artist. The album received recognition from the GRAMMY® Awards with nominations for Best Large Jazz Ensemble and Best Instrumental Composition. Reid said of *Quiet Pride: The Elizabeth Catlett Project* was to create a definitive, professional recording for people who love art and who love music. It will also be an excellent educational tool as I continue my residencies and performances at colleges and universities internationally. *Quiet Pride* has enriched my life about what I do and why I do it.”



***Quiet Pride* has enriched my life about what I do and why I do it.”**

— Rufus Reid

seed questions to consider

1. How does it benefit jazz music students of all levels to have working professionals teaching the craft of music?
2. Taken from the title of Rufus Reid’s essential craft book, how does the idea of “the evolving bassist” benefit jazz musicians in all phases of their studies and careers?
3. What role does listening play when studying the craft of jazz music?

vocabulary

Bandleader

The leader of a musical group, such as a jazz ensemble

Bassline

A low-pitch instrumental line played by an instrument in the rhythm section

Double Bass

The largest and lowest-pitched stringed instrument featured in jazz ensembles and symphony orchestras. It is sometimes called the upright bass or acoustic bass

Improvisation

The practice of spontaneously creating melodies through chords, time signatures and harmonies that are determined in the moment by artists

Jazz Ensemble

A band of jazz musicians who perform on various instruments, including bass, percussion, horns, and sometimes a vocalist. Jazz groups range from a trio or quartet to a big band or jazz orchestra

Pizzicato

A plucking method of playing a stringed instrument

Sideman

A professional musician who performs live with a soloist or group

resources

Websites

Rufus Reid site
rufusreid.com

All About Jazz | Rufus Reid
allaboutjazz.com/musicians/rufus-reid

Ravinia Backstage | “The Involving Bassist: Rufus Reid Has All the Pluck to Play, Teach, and Write”
backstage.ravinia.org/posts/the-involving-bassist-rufus-reid-has-all-the-pluck-to-play-teach-and-write

Milt Hinton Institute for Studio Bass
njpac.org/hinton

Video/Audio

Rufus Reid Interview: The Ever-Evolving Bassist
youtube.com/watch?v=93yHb2rez3w

Rufus Reid Trio, Litchfield Jazz Fest 2021
youtube.com/watch?v=a3zvMfePom0

Rufus Reid: The Evolving Bassist
npr.org/2010/10/06/130378232/rufus-reid-the-evolving-bassist

The Rufus Reid Quintet at the Kennedy Center
npr.org/2008/01/03/15301378/the-rufus-reid-quintet-at-the-kennedy-center

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the arts in your school

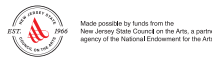
In-School Residencies: NJPAC teaching artists come right to your school to teach the performing arts to your students. Our super-flexible in-person residencies are designed to meet your needs and you'll have a dedicated program manager to help you every step of the way. It's the perfect program to keep your students creating, connecting and expressing themselves through the magic of the arts.

Professional Development: Calling all educators! Expand your teaching skills, deepen your curriculum and give yourself a creative boost in NJPAC's forward-thinking professional development workshops. Our virtual PD programs are for teachers all the way from pre-K to high school and include hip hop, dance, storytelling, theater, music and more. Not only will you learn something... you'll also have fun and be inspired.

For more information or to schedule an appointment, please email our education sales team at artseducation@njpac.org. Or visit njpac.org/education

Major support for the David G. Berger Master Class Series is provided by the Berger Family Foundation

Additional support provided by:



Major support for NJPAC Arts Education programs is provided by Judy and Stewart Colton, Toby and Leon Cooperman, Steven and Beverly Rubenstein Charitable Foundation, and The John Strangfeld and Mary Kay Strangfeld Foundation

NJPAC Arts Education programs are made possible by the generosity of our endowment donors: The Arts Education Endowment Fund in honor of Raymond C. Chambers, The Joan and Allen Bildner Family Fund, Toby and Leon Cooperman, Albert+ and Katharine Merck+, The Sagner Companies/The Sagner Family Foundation, Wells Fargo Foundation

Generous annual support for NJPAC Arts Education programs is provided by Judith Bernhaut, Broadridge Financial Solutions, Inc., The Office of U.S. Senator Cory Booker, Jennifer A. Chalsty, Mimi and Edwin Feliciano, Don Katz & Leslie Larson, Devils Youth Foundation, M&T Bank, McCrane Foundation, Inc., care of Margrit McCrane, The MCJ Amelior Foundation, National Endowment for the Arts, NJ Advance Media, NJM Insurance Group, Panasonic Foundation, PNC, Richmond County Savings Foundation, David & Marian Rocker, Turrell Fund, and an anonymous donor

study the arts at njpac

Saturday Programs: NJPAC's Saturday programs are geared towards students at every level — from those who dream of starring on Broadway to those who are still learning their scales. Students work with professional artists to build technique and develop their own creative style in hip hop, jazz, theater, musical theater and symphonic band.

Summer Programs: Want to begin to explore the arts? Or immerse yourself in the study of one genre? Then join us at NJPAC next summer in one of seven programs that spark the creativity in every child through the study of music, dance and theater.