



BROOKLYN
HISTORICAL
SOCIETY

Randy Weston to Perform at The Brooklyn Historical Society As Part of the 8th Annual Central Brooklyn Jazz Festival

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE – March 13, 2007, Brooklyn, NY – On April 11th at 7:00 p.m. as part of the **8th Annual Central Brooklyn Jazz Festival**, the Brooklyn Historical Society (BHS) will host an evening of jazz and conversation with Randy Weston. After contributing six decades of musical direction and genius, Randy Weston remains one of the world's foremost pianists and composers today, a true innovator and visionary. Encompassing the vast rhythmic heritage of Africa, his global creations musically continue to inform and inspire.

Randy Weston was born in Bedford Stuyvesant, Brooklyn. A disciple of Duke Ellington and his music, his formative years were shaped by his mentorship with Thelonius Monk and he worked with such jazz artists as Kenny Dorham and fellow Brooklynite Cecil Payne. Langston Hughes once said, "When Randy Weston plays, a combination of strength and gentleness, virility and velvet, emerges from the keys in an ebb and flow of sound seemingly as natural as the waves of the sea." Visiting parts of Africa in the early 1960's and finally settling in Rabat, Morocco in 1968, Weston's artistry became infused with the continent's music, rhythms and spirit.

Randy Weston was one of the first oral histories taken by the Brooklyn Historical Society as part of a new oral history project to collect the important personal stories about people, ideas, and events that make up the history of Brooklyn. In 2007 BHS will continue to collect the oral histories of jazz musicians in Brooklyn. Deborah Schwartz, President of BHS, comments, "We are honored to be showcasing Mr. Weston at the Brooklyn Historical Society and look forward to celebrating his truly extraordinary life history. Randy has also opened the door to many of his colleagues and invited us to work with him in creating a historical record of Jazz in Brooklyn.

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Trio featuring: Randy Weston, piano; Neal Clarke, African Percussion and Alex Blake, bass.

Call for reservations Wednesday-Sunday 12:00 pm – 5:00 pm, 718-222-4111 ext. 250.

Tickets: \$30 concert only (Members), \$45 concert only (Non-members)

\$75 concert and private reception with Mr. Weston (Members)

\$100 concert and private reception with Mr. Weston (Non-members)

Founded in 1863, the Brooklyn Historical Society (BHS) is a museum, library, and educational center dedicated to preserving and encouraging the study of Brooklyn's rich 400-year past while recording and reflecting upon the future of our culturally rich borough. www.brooklynhistory.org

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