Also Available From Nap "Don't Forget the Blues" Turner



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"If Nap never records again, he'll have this close to perfect work to ensure his spot in blues history." — Real Blues Magazine

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"This one is a no-brainer if you like to imagine yourself huddled alone in a dark corner of a smoky bar with your drink."

- Scene Magazine





would like to acknowledge and say thanks to the dynamite musicians of the Gary Jenkins Quartet that helped with the creation of this CD. Drummer Gary Jenkins has been in D.C. since 1987 and has been in bands with George Benson, Jimmy McGriff, O'Donnel Levy, Grant Green, Lou Donaldson, Shirley Scott and Larry Young. An impressive resume to say the least.

Alto sax player and Baltimore native, Arnold Sterling has been playing professionally since the 1950s when he was part of the Bill Byrd Trio. Arnold was mentored by Sonny Stitt and spent 14 years in his band. You can hear Sonny's influence in Arnold's playing. He went on to record four LPs with Jimmy McGriff. I feel blessed to be working with these two veterans of the area scene.

Gary introduced me to his guitarist Rick Hanna from Philadelphia and organist Joe Kaplowitz from Fairfax, Virginia. Both excellent players as you will hear on the disc. Trombonist Herm Hopkins sat in on a few gigs to accompany Arnold, his mentor, and is heard on the "Stormy Monday" cut.

I want to extend a very special thanks to Miss Mary Jefferson. Mary and I go way, way, way back to the mid- and late-40s. I first met Mary through her husband, Mark Hill, who was a drummer and an excellent vocalist when I was 15 or 16. They took me under their wing and we've been friends ever since. If you have my first CD, you know that Mary was the one that convinced me to come out front and sing. We have been performing the duet "If You See Kay" together since the mid-eighties. I was at her house the first time I heard it, and I laughed my head off. It comes out different every time we do the song. It is a pleasure to get Mary on this CD. It is her first recording even though she's been out there since they said, "Let there be light." As soon as the light came on, there was Mary singin' and dancin' and trying to tell everybody what to do.

I would also like to thank Ernest and Kathy Simo, the owners of the Cada Vez Restaurant on U Street in Washington. Having cut my teeth in the U Street corridor when I was learning to play, the Cada Vez is a welcome addition to the musical history of the area.

Above all I would like to thank Wayne Kahn. Wayne and I have known each other for more than seven years now. It is a wonderful relationship, and I consider it a friendship more than a business connection. This is something that he likes to do and I like to do, and we compliment each other in the effort.

I am glad about you, whoever you are, if you should pick up this disc. If you like what you hear, that will be my payment, because that's what I'm about, entertaining and educating people. We decided we would include a couple of Langston Hughes' "Simple" stories. I have been doing a radio show at WPFW [in Washington, D.C.] over the last 20 years and one of the things that we've tried to do is give an example of not only the music, but other kinds of cultural things that were happening in the same time period as much of this music. The people who listen to my show fell in love with Jesse B. Simple, just as I did—so these stories are for you, my fans.

A note from a fan

Glad to hear your working on some more Nap. If you just let him read "Simple" all day or sing the Percy Mayfield songbook that'd be great. I really love it all. The first CD and the "Simple" tape are among my favorite recordings in my music collection. Nap is actually who turned me on to both Langston Hughes & Percy Mayfield.

Keep On and Take Care, Rich Willette, Manassas VA

You Got it, Rich!! Nap Turner

P.S.-Don't Forget the Blues!

Nap "Don't Forget the Blues" Turner

Nap Turner, vocals; Mary Jefferson, vocal duet with Nap on "If You See Kay" Gary Jenkins Quartet Gary Jenkins, drums; Arnold Sterling, sax; Rick Hanna, guitar; Joe Kaplowitz, organ; Herm Hopkins, trombone

- 1. Stranger in My Home Town Percy Mayfield, Tangerine Music Corp. BMI 4:36
- 2. Deadly Nightshade (The Great City) Curtis Reginald Lewis, Jodax Music Co. BMI 4:19
- 3. Again Cousin Minnie from *Best of Simple*, © 1961 by Langston Hughes Used by permission of Harold Ober Associates Incorporated. 6:41
- 4. Country Percy Mayfield, EMI Grove Park/Ninandy Music Co. BMI 2:56
- 5. Stormy Monday Aaron T-Bone Walker, Gregmark Music Inc. BMI 5:56
- I Don't Stand a Ghost of a Chance With You Bing Crosby/Ned Washington/ Victor Young, EMI Mills Music Inc./Victor Young Publications Inc. ASCAP 3:47
- 7. River's Invitation Percy Mayfield, Sony/ATV Songs L.L.C. BMI 4:36
- 8. Confessin' the Blues Jay McShann/Walter Brown, Sony Tunes, Inc./Universal MCA Publishing ASCAP 4:14
- Present for Joyce from Best of Simple, ©1961 by Langston Hughes Used by permission of Harold Ober Associates Incorporated. 8:33
- When Did You Leave Heaven Walter Bullock/Richard Whiting, EMI Robbins Catalogue Inc./ Ship Lollipop Publishing ASCAP 4:58
- 11. If You See Kay/Meet Me With Your Black Drawers On P. Chatman, ARC Music BMI/J&J Cheatham, Edson Publishing Co. ASCAP 6:15

Producer-Wayne Kahn, Right on Rhythm Mixing/Mastering-Bill Wolf, Wolf Productions

Cover Art-Barry Bishop CD Package Design-Deane Nettles/Deane Nettles Associates



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Nap "Don't Forget the Blues" Turner

with the Gary Jenkins Quartet



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