"I am glad that this project has come to fruition. I am grateful and hope folks will be entertained, enjoy, and are stimulated as a result.
All praise to the creator."
—Nap "Don't Forget the Blues" Turner

Special thanks to Jimmy & LuAnn of City Blues Cafe
And thanks to Michael and Taylor Frodyam and BOONET

Recorded and produced by Wayne Kahn
Mastering by Bill Wolf/Wolf Productions
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Nap Turner’s "Live at City Blues" and "Hughs Views of the Blues"
Also available from Right on Rhythm:
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For 18 years, Washington D.C. has been treated to the rich baritone voice of Nap “Don’t Forget the Blues” Turner on Pacifica Radio’s WPFW, 89.3 FM. An institution within the D.C. jazz and blues scene, Nap has been performing in the area for over 50 years.

Nap moved to D.C. with his family from West Virginia in 1943 when he was 12 years old. Although he came from a family of shoemakers, he knew early on that it was music that would be his consuming passion. Sneaking out of the house so he could hang out around the clubs that featured bebop around 14th and U Streets, he was inspired to become a musician by the likes of Slam Stewart and U.O.; he was playing. He and his friends would go into the listening booth of one of the record shops along 7th and T Streets to check out the latest jazz/blues combo. Nap's readings of the Simple stories are a regular and popular feature of his radio show. I met Nap in 1995 and began tapping him for material about his life. He appeared on my first release, "The Blues You Would Just Hate To Lose Vol. (7ER001) doing Percy Mayfield, "Lowdown West Virginia Woman."
The disk's five Percy Mayfield compositions that "Do n't Forget the Blues" took on piano, and Nap called in his theatrical talents, performing the song as if he were the one dying of TB. Once, he told me, a young child, convinced that he was in real distress, carried a glass of water to the stage and offered it to him to calm his hacking and coughing. Good Morning Blues," Nap's own composition. Its opening lines speak of slavery and the roots of the blues:

I am a soulful scream
I am a way of life
An assertion
Left by the breathtaking heat of Africa
Sniffs born on arms
Of jungles searching winds
The after affects
Of guns
Captivity
Religion
Rejection
Hope
And sin
I am a soulfull scream
And a moan as one
I'm a personal expression
I am the blues

The blues
A personal expression

The диск's five Percy Mayfield compositions are a testament to Percy's influence on Nap. Included are "Walking on a
Tightrope,""Highway's Like a Woman,"" Painful Party,""The Hunt is On" and another performance of "Lover and the Married Woman." (God willing and the creek don't rise—to borrow one of Nap's favorite expressions—we someday hope to put together a stage production featuring Nap and the works of Percy Mayfield, the "Poet Laureate of the Blues.") The reading of Frederick Douglas Harper's, "Wedding Pledge" is a regular feature of Nap's Saturday morning radio show and always generates requests. It is included as a tribute to his fans.

The supporting cast on this disc all deserve greater recognition for their work over the years. Rusty Bogart, Charlie Hubel, Arthur Gerstein and Jeff Lodsen comprise the core of the J Street Jumpers, a 9-piece band that has a new CD, "Is You Is, Or Is You Ain't My Baby," on Mapleshade. Rusty and Charlie have been playing together on and off since the early '70s. While known around town as a baritone and tenor player, Charley actually got his start in music as a harp player in the early '70s and worked with the great J.B. Hutto for a while. Bass on most of the live cuts is Bagwan Khalsa, and the two recorded on 6/23 feature the much in demand John Previti who was the late Danny Gatton's bassist for a number of years.

—Wayne Kahn

Nap Turner live at City Blues
1. Going Down Slow
   Jimmy Oden 7:30 rec 3/25/98
   Arc Music Corp./MCA Duchess Music Corp.

2. Walking on a Tightrope
   Percy Mayfield 3:34 rec 8/5/98
   Unichappell Music Inc./Warner-Tamerlane Publishing Co.

3. Good Morning Blues
   Napoleon Turner 7:17 rec 3/25/98
   Write on Rhythm

4. Street Walking Woman
   EMI Unart Catalogue Inc.

5. Highway's Like a Woman
   Percy Mayfield 6:44 rec 8/5/98
   Emi Grove Park Music/Ninandy Music Co.

6. Painful Party
   Percy Mayfield 4:54 rec 8/5/98
   Emi Grove Park Music Inc./Ninandy Music Co.

7. Lover and the Married Woman
   Emi Grove Park Music Inc.

8. The Hunt is On
   Percy Mayfield 4:23 rec 6/3/98
   Sony/ATV Songs LLC

9. Room with a View
   Lowell Fulson/Billy Vera 5:47 rec 8/5/98
   ARC Music Corp.

10. Baby What You Want Me to Do
    Jimmy Reed 4:45 rec 6/23/98
    Conrad Music/The Seeds of Reed Music

11. Wedding Pledge
    Poem by Frederick Douglas Harper from the book "Poems on Love and Life" 4:44
    Background of "When a Man Loves a Woman" written by Lewis-Wright, performed by Hank
    Courtesy of Fantasy, Inc.

Personnel:
Rusty Bogart guitar
Charley Hubel sax
Arthur Gerstein piano
Jeff Lodson drums
Charlie Hubel Harmonica on Going Down Slow
Brad Clements trumpet on Walking On A Tightrope/
Painful Party
Bagwan Khalsa bass on all cuts except
John Previti bass on Street Walking Woman/
      What You Want Me To Do