

This interview with Randy Weston occurred on June 23, 2018, in Randy Weston's Brooklyn home turned out to be his last. The meeting was arranged and recorded by Eric Frazier, a musician and concert impresario, who at the time was appearing in my latest play, "Life Among The Aryans," at the Nuyorican Poets Cafe. Weston had a look and exhibited the joy of a person who had been rewarded with a life well spent, from a cook and amateur musician to an international musical icon and innovator of African American and African musical traditions. During the session, he repeated the material found in "African Rhythms: The Autobiography of Randy Weston," (a John Hope Franklin Center Book), about how he expanded the art, but he kept returning to the beginnings. How much his father and mother taught him his roots and gave him a solid grounding about where he came from. He spoke as they were present in his house. He also discussed the debt he owed to his great mentors, the great pioneers, Duke, Monk, and Max Roach. When a young person, he was in awe of Charlie Parker and joined the master in a 45-minute set. The next day, I was honored when Randy came to a performance of my play.

Tennessee sent the transcribed copy to Randy. I called Rome Neal, who had directed my play and had direct contact with Randy and asked him to answer a few minor questions. Rome told me that he had died that day. Rome said that he was buried like a King.