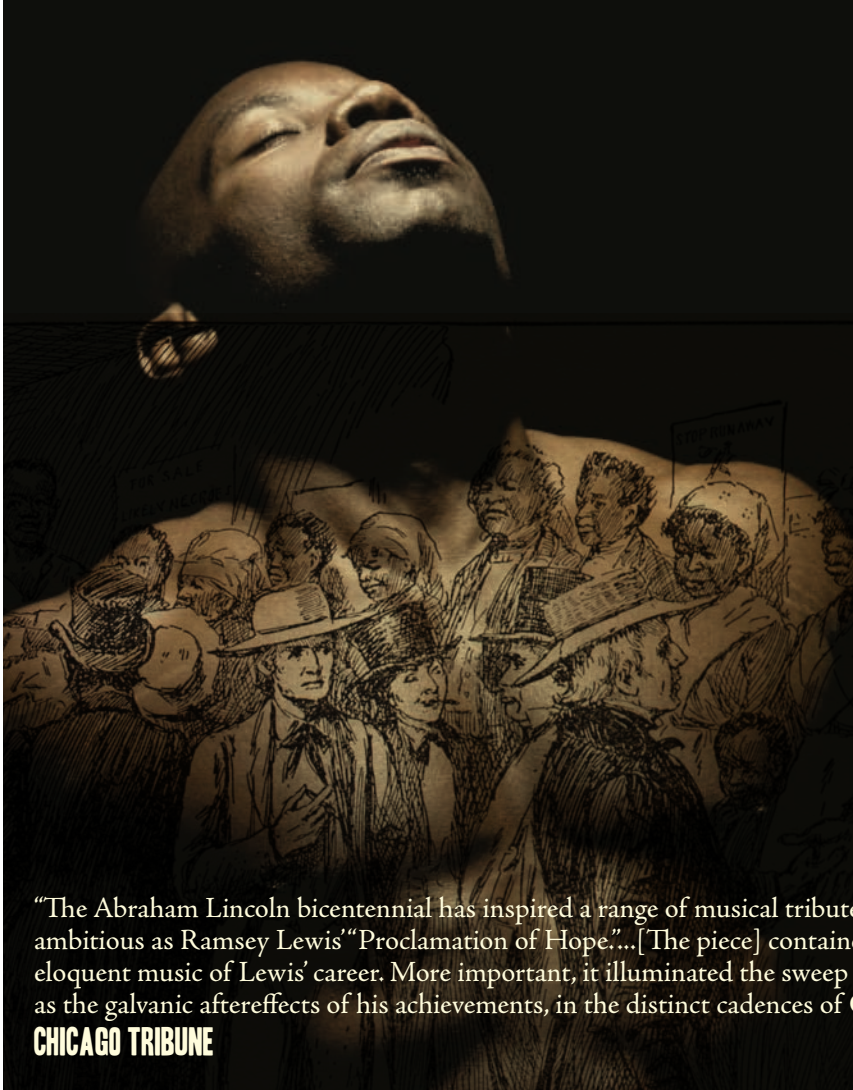




# Ramsey Lewis

## PROCLAMATION OF HOPE: A SYMPHONIC POEM




PROCLAMATION OF HOPE commemorates Abraham Lincoln's 200th birthday and considers his life and legacy as our country's 16th, and perhaps greatest, president. Composed by RAMSEY LEWIS and scored by Scott Hall for wind ensemble, rhythm section, and voice, the work is organized in eight discrete movements. Historic visual images further animate the story that Lewis has musically interpreted, and serve to inspire reflection in the listeners. Each movement takes as motivation from actual historical events and people drawn from Lincoln's life and work, and considers their profound influences on this nation's quest for **A MORE PERFECT UNION**.

Composer and pianist RAMSEY LEWIS has been referred to as "the great performer", a title reflecting his performance style and musical selections which display his early gospel playing and classical training along with his love of jazz and other musical forms. Ramsey Lewis first captivated fans with his very first album, charting upward to become nation's most successful jazz pianists. He has three Grammy Awards and seven gold records to his credit.

"The Abraham Lincoln bicentennial has inspired a range of musical tributes, but few as ambitious as Ramsey Lewis' "Proclamation of Hope."...[The piece] contained some of the most eloquent music of Lewis' career. More important, it illuminated the sweep of Lincoln's life, as well as the galvanic aftereffects of his achievements, in the distinct cadences of Chicago jazz."

**CHICAGO TRIBUNE**



"The music was as rich and sophisticated, melodic and complex, inside and out there as any I've heard in a long time." **JAZZ POLICE**