

THE MOVEMENT REVISITED A JAZZ OPUS BY CHRISTIAN MCBRIDE

Dedicated to the icons of the Civil Rights Movement: the men and women who changed America and the course of history

Overture >> **The Movement Revisited**

Movement One >> **Sister Rosa (Rosa Parks)**

Movement Two >> **Brother Malcolm (Malcolm X)**

Movement Three >> **Rumble in the Jungle (Muhammad Ali)**

Movement Four >> **A View from the Mountaintop (Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.)**

Movement Five >> **Apotheosis: November 4th, 2008 (Barack Obama.)**

The Civil Rights movement of the second half of the last century caused the United States to undergo a massive upheaval of its social structure. Many African Americans demanded the nation live up to the basic tenet of the Constitution: Equal treatment under law. These struggles became what many have since called the “Second Reconstruction Era.”

The tumultuous Civil Rights Movement of the 1950s and 1960s was pivotal in forcing America to become a true democracy—a greater, stronger nation that gave African Americans a new voice. The heroes of that time captured Christian McBride’s imagination when he was a youngster growing up in a struggling neighborhood in Philadelphia. The courage of the individual against the many, the fight for what is right against all odds—powerful concepts that further resonated within McBride as he grew older and discovered his own unique musical voice. Fascinated that the selfless act of a simple seamstress would spark years of protest and decades of the growing, collective awareness of social injustice, McBride felt compelled to write his uniquely American piece, an anthem for the later half of the 20th Century.

THE MOVEMENT Revisited pays tribute to that unforgettable seamstress, Rosa Parks, as well as Muhammad Ali, Malcolm X, and Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. The piece will resonate both for those who lived through The Movement and younger people introduced to it through the prism of history.

The genesis for this project began in 1998 when McBride was commissioned by the Portland (ME) Arts Society to compose “The Movement, Revisited,” a two-part composition for small instrumental group and gospel ensemble. This year, McBride envisioned a project of wider scope on the same theme and it has grown into a full-scale, 90-minute production composed for a 17-piece big band, 5 narrators and a gospel choir. All musical selections were composed by McBride, including The Movement’s narrative and lyrical works.

McBride believes that “the sacrifices made by these African-Americans have been so enveloped in myth, that, to a large extent, their names are remembered more than their accomplishments. This piece will capture musically how their deeds shaped our world, and remind us of our responsibility to see, paving the way for so many to live a better life.”

THE MOVEMENT Revisited had its world premiere at the Walt Disney Hall in Los Angeles, marking the 40th anniversary of the assassination of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.



**christian
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