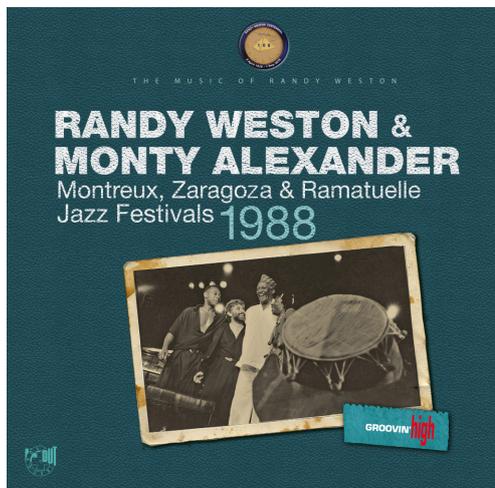




## PRESS RELEASE



RANDY WESTON  
MONTY ALEXANDER  
MONTREUX, ZARAGOZA & RAMATUELLE  
JAZZ FESTIVALS 1988



IOR 2LP 77167-1



IOR CD 77167-2



- |               |         |               |         |                                         |
|---------------|---------|---------------|---------|-----------------------------------------|
| 1. Hi Fly     | (11:47) | 5. Blue Monk  | (11:12) | <b>Randy Weston</b> piano               |
| 2. Blue Moses | (08:48) | 6. St Thomas  | (08:56) | <b>Monty Alexander</b> piano            |
| 3. Caravan    | (07:06) | 7. Blue Moses | (17:47) | <b>Eric Asanté</b> african percussion   |
| 4. Hi Fly     | (10:03) |               |         | <b>Robert (Bobby) Thomas</b> hand drums |

### RANDY WESTON & MONTY ALEXANDER MONTREUX, ZARAGOZA & RAMATUELLE JAZZ FESTIVALS 1988

(IN+OUT Records)

**IN+OUT Records is celebrating the 100th birthday of jazz piano legend Randy Weston with three albums featuring previously unreleased live material. These will be released individually on vinyl and CD, as well as together in an elegant and strictly limited collector's box set.**

Randy Weston, the giant. He was said to stand 6 feet 7 inches tall, which is why he gave his most famous composition the name "Hi Fly". He once remarked that from his height, looking down at the ground felt like flying. Indeed, the towering figure born in Brooklyn in 1926 drew attention not only for his physical stature but also for his music — his titles possessed that special something: memorable, distinctive melodies with a strong sense of identity. This was due in part to the fact that Rhythm & Blues can rightly be called Weston's musical cradle, but also because, in the second half of his career, he devoted himself especially to the legacy of his African ancestors.

His father had sharpened his awareness early on. He ran a restaurant in Bedford-Stuyvesant, a New York neighborhood that was considered a focal point of the Brooklyn jazz scene. "You are an African born in America. Look in the mirror and learn who you are," he impressed upon young Randy, encouraging him to trace the roots of jazz back to its „mother continent," Africa. That Weston's playing was always edgy and rhythmically charged was due above all to Thelonious Monk — alongside Duke Ellington, his greatest role model. Monk advised Weston never to make musical compromises — advice he followed faithfully until his death in 2018 at the age of 92.

As early as 1960, Weston dedicated an entire album, „Uhuru Africa", to African sounds, followed in 1963 by „Highlife" and in 1964 by „African Cookbook". In 1961, the pianist traveled to Nigeria for the first time, and by the late 1960s, he had settled for several years in Tangier, Morocco, where he ran a jazz club. Later, he worked regularly with Gnawa musicians and, in 2017, released The African Nubian Suite, a sweeping exploration of human history through sounds from Egypt, Senegal, China, and Afro-America.

In honor of Randy Weston's 100th birthday on April 6, 2026, IN+OUT Records is releasing a spectacular box set featuring three previously unreleased albums. These recordings capture the pianist's performances in 1985 at the Brooklyn Academy of Music and the Montreux Jazz Festival, as well as his 1988 festival collaborations with fellow pianist Monty Alexander — all preserved for posterity by Weston's longtime friend Jacques Muyal. The collection will be available on vinyl in an exquisite leather case, complete with a commemorative medal designed by the artist himself.

#### Montreux, Zaragoza & Ramatuelle Jazz Festivals 1988

**Randy Weston & Monty Alexander – two master pianists in dialogue. In 1988, their duo performances in Montreux, Zaragoza, and Ramatuelle revealed jazz as a vibrant conversation between continents, styles, and spirits.**

Randy Weston had many faces. That's why the third part of the tribute marking his 100th birthday does not once again focus on big bands, but rather on the smallest possible ensemble—the duo. The encounters between him and Monty Alexander in 1988 rank among the most dazzling performances of two great, versatile, and above all unconventional pianists who could be admired on public stages at that time.

The fact that Randy Weston was joined by Eric Asanté from Ghana and Monty Alexander by his Jamaican compatriot Bobby Thomas—each bringing their own percussionist—does not invalidate the term "duo." On the contrary, the buoyant rhythms only amplify the power of the two pianos. This congenial partnership served as a vivid reminder that jazz does not have to be solely an American art form, but rather a living dialogue between continents, histories, and identities. Weston and Alexander spoke different dialects of the same language. Yet their message was always the same: in jazz, it matters as much where we come from as where we are going.

The summit meeting of these two grand masters of the keyboard took place in 1988 at the initiative of Spanish promoter Jordi Suñol. The tour led from the Montreux Jazz Festival to Zaragoza and finally to the picturesque Mediterranean village of Ramatuelle in southern France. For the concerts, they agreed that in the first part each would perform with his own percussionist, while in the second part they would join forces on stage. Since there already exists a considerable number of solo recordings by both Randy Weston and Monty Alexander, the newly released

tracks focus on their magnificent intermezzi from the second set—moments that drew their incredible energy from deep mutual admiration. Once again, both “Hi-Fly” and “Blue Moses” can be heard in two distinct versions, the fascination lying in how Weston and Alexander made the same pieces sound completely different, even though only a few days separated the recordings. In addition, a wonderfully colorful rendition of Thelonious Monk’s “Blue Monk” stands out as a luminous example of their shared musical language.

## THE COMPLETE RANDY WESTON CENTENNIAL PROJECT:



IOR 77168-1  
 Boxset incl. 4-page Booklet  
 Vegan Leather Bag with  
 embedded brass medal  
 designed by Randy Weston  
 Limited to 500 copies



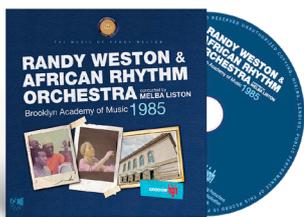
IOR 77165-1  
 LP • 180gr. Virgin Vinyl  
 High Glossy Gatefold Cover



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 2LP • 180gr. Virgin Vinyl  
 High Glossy Gatefold Cover



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