

OGÚN MEJI DUO

Edwin Bayard & Mark Lomax, II

The Art of Sound



Song List:

- 1) Alkebulan (Lomax & Bayard)
- 2) That's The Idea: Tribute To Kidd
Jordan (Lomax & Bayard)
- 3) Free Will (E. Bayard)
- 4) Griot Love Song Pt. 2 (M. Lomax)
- 5) Ornette's Theory (E. Bayard)

Total run time 51 minutes

OGÚN MEJI DUO

Edwin Bayard- tenor saxophone

Mark Lomax, II- drum set

Produced by Mark Lomax, II for CFG Multimedia, LLC
Recorded at Relay Recording Studio (Columbus, Ohio)
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Engineered by Jon Fintel

Edited and Mixed at Relay Recording Studio
by Mark Lomax, II & Jon Fintel March 6, 2016

Mastered at Relay Recording Studio April 1.2016

Liner notes by Mark Lomax, II

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Mark plays RBH Drums exclusively
visit them at www.rbhdrumsusa.com

www.marklomaxii.com/ogun-meji-duo

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In the prayer written as the incantation for the last movement of his seminal work *A Love Supreme*, John Coltrane wrote:

Words, sounds, speech, men, memory, thoughts,
fears and emotions - time - all related ...
all made from one ... all made in one.
Blessed be His name.
Thought waves - heat waves - all vibrations -
all paths lead to God. Thank you God.

I found this perplexing the first time I read it at 16. "...all made from one... all made in one..." I thought. How could this be? I was also stuck on how "all paths lead to God" because my Christian upbringing taught that the only way to God was through Christ but as I've matured over the past 20+ years since first reading these liner notes, I've come to understand that the key to this segment of the prayer is the word "vibrations." Everything vibrates. Vibration is energy, and energy is Spirit. Everything is comprised of Universal Energy and in music, I believe this energy is embodied in sound. Not the sound of the instrument, but the sound that comes from the core of the musicians.

Sound. Every human being has a sound. One's *sound* is usually manifested in the voice, but to acquire a *voice* as a musician is not as simple as merely producing a sound. No, it comes from the ability to communicate from one's essential vibration to the listener in a way that distinguishes your Spirit-self from another musician in the same way that each human voice (manifestation of Spirit-self) represents a unique Spirit.

The Art of Sound is the art of communication at the level of



Energy/Spirit. While intellect is present, it is not the primary aspect. Indeed, intellect exists only to serve the more powerful vibrations that stem from spiritual energy. This is an important part of Black music going back to its functional and ceremonial aspects in the traditional music of Alkebulan (Afrika) where its primary use was that of connecting the community, transmitting cultural values, and communicating with various spiritual entities. Spirit *is* Energy. Vibration is Spirit in motion (rhythm). If humans are spiritual beings then sound, as a manifestation of energy in motion, is a means of connecting and communicating at the level of Spirit.

This art, the *art of sound* that the science of music has given us, is becoming more and more rare amongst younger musicians who are taught that music is a purely intellectual practice in the sterile environments of the academy. Why? Because matters of the Spirit are often deemed subjective and therefore unquantifiable. That *something* that cannot be taught. This is where respect for, and significant study of the culture that created the art would prove

useful were it not for the rampant existence of racism/white supremacy. This dubious practice prevents even the most sincere student from accessing the true power of sound by 'formal' means, and the art form has suffered as a result.

The truth of the matter is that the ancient people of Alkebulan understood the science of sound as a means of communication with each other, communication with the cosmos, and as a tool for healing. Coltrane grew in his understanding of this in the mid 1960s and his path changed drastically from that which had come before. Sun Ra understood sound, as did Albert Ayler, Sun Ship, Elvin Jones, McCoy Tyner, Ellington and Jimmy Garrison. Pharaoh Sanders, Cecil Taylor, Milford Graves, and many others are producing excellent work in *sound art*. In fact, Black musicians in amerikkka always understood that a good musician was supposed to develop his or her *own* sound, their own sonic fingerprint as it were, but it wasn't until the 60s that Africans in amerikkka began to remember the importance of sound from a spiritual perspective in our art music, though this

was a regular occurrence in our religious music and practices. Thus, the science of sound is a sacred science, and the art that transmits it to the listener is a sacred art whose most effective practitioners are squarely rooted in the traditions of Alkebulan.

The music captured on this recording contains vibrations of the purest intent. The same intent that manifested *A Love Supreme* (Coltrane), *Freedom Suite* (Rollins), *Members Don't Get Weary* (Roach), *Planetary Unknown* (Ware), and *On Fire* (Jordan). The focus on creating an expression that is both spiritually edifying and politically potent is the reason Lomax and Bayard chose the Yoruban phrase 'Ogún Meji' to represent their collaboration. A powerful member of the Orisha, Ogún is known as a fierce warrior who defends his people and fights against injustice while also being benevolent, using creativity and intelligence (technology) to lead humanity to its optimal vibratory self. His example is the perfect analogy to the body of work that Bayard and Lomax have produced since their first recording 17 years ago.

Their purpose is the work of reconnecting humanity to itself, and the music heard here, created from the very depths of their souls, reflects the complexities of human existence. It is created in a country where Black men, women, and children are as endangered now as ever in amerikkkan history, yet its power comes not from anger, but from love. We are all related. All are one because "all are made in One." We are all powerful because we all have the power to optimize our vibrations to change the world for all of humanity. That power is love, and we will find the freedom we have always had at the point where we surrender to the powerful essence of who we are as Spiritual Beings.

Peace & Power,
Mark Lomax, II
Columbus, Ohio
January 2016



Thank you's and acknowledgements:

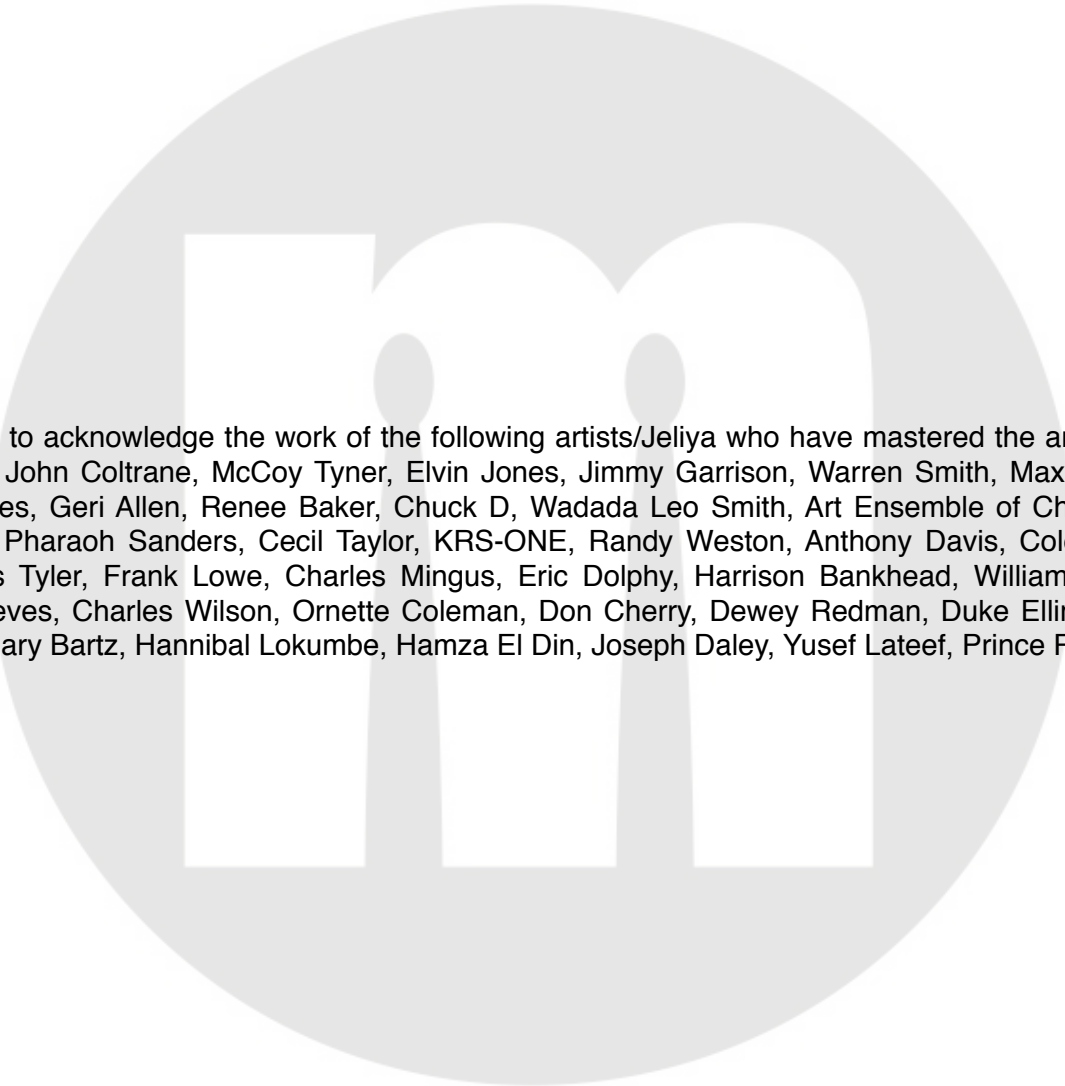
Mark:

First, I'd like to thank my Ancestors for trusting me with the power of sound, and guiding me on my journey. To my lovely wife, Ruth, my beautiful daughters Amirah (13) and Lailah (6), I love you. Thank you Mom for encouraging me to be me, and thanks to my Dad for the fire and showing me what courage is. A huge "Thank You" to all of my family for your honesty and love. Thanks goes to the best group of friends: Drs. Cedric & Meisha Adderley, Jason & Manika Williams, Nick & Kadijah Jones. Not only do you tolerate my 'crazy,' but you all encourage me to be better through your own examples.

Eddie:

I'd like to thank Abby and Ascila Bayard, the Thomas family, Pharez Whitted, Ralph Peterson, Andy Magee, and Kidd Jordan.





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"It's human nature to create music that readjusts the vibrations distorted by history. That's why I'm certain that music is a form of healing before it is an art."– Dr. Masaru Emoto

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