



## *George Duke*

(January 12, 1946 – August 5, 2013)

Today was a sad day indeed. Like many of you fellow jazz fans out there, I learned today another great has left us. George was the man when it came to crossing over. I sometimes think he invented the word because he could do it so well. His status was of such importance to me in jazz, it was scary in wondering, who would be next?



Live On Tour In Europe

This has affected me so much, I am having a hard time just putting these words down. I can only imagine how his family and friends must feel. At least I can rest in confront that this mountain of a talented man accomplished a hell of a lot during his career. I ran into George during his first transition from Jazz into Funk & Jazz. No doubt about it was different and you rolled with it. The beat he drove made you feel better, it was not bad, not bad at all.

George also had an elegance about him that would rise sometimes in the middle of some of his most progressive music. He could take simple sections, thoughts and phrases sound and turn them into something special indeed. Even repeating them over and over through the piece would sound different every time it was heard.

George was a powerful man. How do I know this you ask? Simple, the enormous amount of art and talent he displayed not only in himself, but others as well. When many of the past were cut short because of the enormous energy they projected, George kept it going in so many different ways, you couldn't keep count. If our sun burned any stronger/brighter, it would shorten its life. George Duke



Dukey Treats

talents was enormously bright yet maintain in such a way, that it's brightness will continue to shine on others for years to come.



I do not think George knew the many souls he truly touched. When you are out there on the stage, you are just entertaining and trying to make people feel good. He went far past that to a point that in many of my conversations with other Jazz fans, there was no way he was not mentioned in the listing. When he was, it would sound like he was in a special realm of his own, saying his name alone George Duke.

George has played with so many other artist, I am still discovering myself. There is this CD (George still called albums) from Billy Cobham called Picture This. There is a special piece called Two for Juan. The piano solo I have loved for years and only a couple years ago did I learn it was George.

Albums and CD's he could spit them out, and not just anything, but special ones as well. Like with most other things in life, when you produce something no matter how good it maybe, it is all a matter of timing. I am sure those whom took George's music as just ok, will have a new sense of appreciation for it now.

In summary I just wish to say thank you George and Corin. There is no doubt that behind every great man, there is a greater woman. You and George were no exception. Without your support and love for him, I am sure that many of the great pieces that we have heard and grown to love would not exist. Many fail to recognize the sacrifice many in a supporting role give up for the one they love and Corin, based upon what George had produced, your sacrifice was great indeed.



As many have learned, when your better half is gone, life losses its luster. That is why many check out soon after. They may have habits you do not like, do other things that may even piss you off, but all and all when you are on the road, who do you think about? I know there is no need for me to hang around if (God forbids) my queen decides to go before me.

No doubt about it, I will truly miss you George and even though I never met her, I know she was the engine behind your soul while you were here, I will miss Corin as well.



KEYSTONE, JEAN-CHRISTOPHE BOTT, FILE / AP

US jazz artist George Duke performs on the Stravinski Hall stage at the 43rd Montreux Jazz Festival, in Montreux, Switzerland.

<http://www.theguardian.com/music/2013/aug/07/george-duke>

*Bill Sommerville*