

## **Raymond Williams Resume**

- 1972 –73      Andrew H. Wilson Elementary School: My first music instructor was Mrs. Perry. I played in the school band during 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> grades.
- 1973 – 75      James Durham Middle School – I was in the Marching Band under the direction of Lloyd Johnston.
- 1975 – 79      Played in the Marching Band and Concert Band at Alcee Fortier Senior High School under the direction of Mr. Francis Gonzales (1975-8) and Mr. Elijah Brimmer (1978-79). Between Junior and High School, rehearsed, played and listened to funk bands. Summer of 1977 participated in the New Orleans Recreation Department (NORD) Summer Band Camp at Booker T. Washington Senior High School under the direction of Mr. (“Cool”) Walter Smith, who showed me major and minor (natural, harmonic, and melodic) scales in all keys. A good friend, Alonzo Turkweed suggested that I audition for acceptance at the New Orleans Center of Creative Arts (NOCCA) and study under Mr. Ellis Marsalis.
- 1977 – 79      New Orleans Center of Creative Arts (NOCCA): It was there I was introduced to the music of Miles Davis, Nat Adderley, Clark Terry, Freddie Hubbard, Dizzy Gillespie, John Coltrane, Charlie Parker, etc. I had an opportunity to see and listen to live performances and meet Clark Terry. I played in the jazz ensemble, and for the first time, studied trumpet privately, with Chuck Easterling and John E. Fernandez
- 1980 – 84      Sang in a gospel choir called the Junior Echoes, which later changed its name to the New Orleans Echoes. Studied with traditional jazz trumpeter Dalton Rousseau, whom I met at a job at the New Orleans Hilton and Towers.
- 1981 – 83      Delgado Community College – Played in the concert band and jazz ensemble; also the big band under the direction of George Jansen and Vic Zippito. Also studied trumpet under Mr. Jansen.
- 1982 – 84      Worked with a funk band called Sterling Silver under the leadership of guitarist Harry Sterling. It was there that I received my first recording studio experience.
- 1983 – 86      Xavier University in New Orleans and U.S. Army Reserve. At Xavier University I studied trumpet under Diane Lyle and Ronald Benko, played in the jazz ensemble, big band, symphonic band and brass ensemble. Also studied jazz under Michael Pierce, Earl Turbinton and Richard Payne.
- In 1984 I joined the Army Reserve, studied trumpet under Willie Singleton and worked in local bands, big bands, jazz ensembles and brass bands. Played in the Sigmund Walker Big Band, Stephen Foster big Band, The Performing Artists Group (a jazz quintet led by alto saxophonist Chad Evans), the New Orleans Tradition Jazz Band (led by tuba player Lawrence Ketchens).
- 1986              Moved to Hartford, CT. in December

- 1987 – 89 Studied in the African-American Music Department at the Hartt School of Music, University of Hartford under Professor Jackie McLean.
- Studied improvisation jazz theory/harmony, ensemble and repertory building with South African pianist Hotep Cecil Bernard Galeta and studied trumpet with Roger Murtha.
- 1987 – 2000 Music Instructor at the Artists Collective, a community-based cultural arts center in Hartford, CT. founded by Jackie and Dollie McLean, Cheryl Smith, Ionis Martin and Paul Brown.
- 1989 – 94 Trumpeter in Collective Expression, a jazz quintet consisting of students of Jackie McLean.
- 1990.2000 Instructor for the Artists Collective Lila Wallace-Reader's Digest Youth Jazz Orchestra
- 1992 Met and studied with trumpeter Webster Young. Also performed in his tribute concert to Miles Davis at the Hartt School of Music.
- 1992 – 2000 Music Instructor at the African-American Music Department of the Hartt School of Music, University of Hartford.
- Met and studied with trumpeter Webster Young. Also performed in his tribute concert to Miles Davis at Lincoln Theater on the University of Hartford campus.
- 1993 Composed for and recorded with Collective Expression with Alan Palmer, Abraham Burton, Eric McPherson and Tyler Mitchell at Rudy Van Gelder Recording Studios in Englewood Cliffs, NJ.
- Joined the Jackie McLean Sextet – New York City debut at the Village Vanguard in December
- 1993 – 94 Worked in local Latin (Meringue & Salsa) bands, including the DeLeon Band and Sensación.
- 1993 – 95 Toured the U.S., Brazil, Japan and the Caribbean with the Jackie McLean Jazz Dynasty featuring René McLean
- 1994 Trumpeter with René McLean & Friends. Performed at the Antigua Jazz Festival in October.
- 1995 Trumpeter and Assistant Conductor of the Hartt Concert Jazz Band
- 1994.2000 Leader of Collective Expression
- 1995 Performed with the Jackie McLean Sextet and special guests vibraharpist Bobby Hutcherson and trumpeter Roy Hargrove in a Tribute to Jackie McLean
- 1996 Performed with the Cecil Bridgewater Big Band in a tribute to Cannonball Adderley presented by the African American Music Society of WTCC FM in Springfield, Massachusetts, featuring Mulgrew Miller, Antonio Hart and Vanessa Rubin.

- 1996-2000 Head conductor for the Artists Collective Lila Wallace-Reader's Digest Youth Jazz Orch.
- 1997 Performed with Jackie McLean in concert and participated in his jazz clinic in Kansas City
- 1997-2000 Studied with Barry Harris in his Jazz Workshop on Tuesday nights in New York City.
- 1998 Studied trumpet under Jerome Callet at Jerome Callet Studios in Staten Island, New York.
- 1998-2000 Composer for the Artists Collective Lila Wallace Reader-s digest Youth Jazz Orchestra
- 1998-2000 Raymond A. Williams Ensemble performs at The Hartt School of Music Student Ensemble Recitals
- Performed in duet with Rufus Foote, and took part in a discussion entitled *African American Men: Past, Present & Future*, discussing the significance of jazz to our culture, in celebration of Black History Month presented by the Benjamin E. Mays Institute
- Performed with my own groups at various venues in and around Hartford
- 2000 Moved to New Orleans
- Performed with Jackie & Rene McLean in a presentation by the Thelonious Monk Institute with Bobby Watson and Lisa Henry at Weaver High School in Hartford, Ct., introducing high school students to jazz, in a pilot program for Hartford High Schools in April.
- 2001 Performed at the New Orleans Jazz & Heritage Festival in May with the Tornado Brass.
- Performed at the Satchmo Summerfest in August with the Hot 8 Brass Band and New Orleans Jazz & Heritage Festival in May
- 2001-02 Working with Brass Bands in New Orleans, including the Treme Brass Band and the Hot 8 Brass Band, which performed at New Orleans Saints Home Games during the 2001 - 2002 football season
- Performed as a leader for the first time at the Zeitgeist Multidisciplinary Arts Center Creative Music Festival in a tribute to Jackie McLean.
- 2002 Recorded with Anders Osborne & Big Chief Monk Boudreaux for their CD entitled *Bury the Hatchet* in July.
- 2003 Dr. Rackle & The Sound Griots performed at the New Orleans Jazz & Heritage Festival in the Bell South/WWOZ Jazz Tent on May 1
- Participated as a musician in the Ray Charles Big Band in the shooting of the Ray Charles movie, *Unchain My Heart*, now called *Ray*, directed by Taylor Hackford May 7-8 and 14-15
- 2003-present Performance & Lecture Demonstration on the History of the New Orleans Brass Bands with the Hot 8 Brass Band in Louis Armstrong Park (Congo Square) and the Ashe Center, and the effects of Hurricane Katrina on New Orleans and the Gulfcoast, Bamboula Second Line Presentation on July 2.

Performed in the Linna & Pori Jazz Festival in Finland with the New Orleans Original Royal Players Brass Band July 9-12.

Performed in China with the Original New Orleans Royal Players Brass Band.

2002 -2004 Performed in the New Orleans Jazz & Heritage Festival and the Satchmo Summerfest with the Hot 8 Brass Band.

2004 Performed with Eddie Boh Paris and the Funky Seven Brass Band in the Umbria Jazz Festival in Perugia, Italy, Ancona Jazz Festival in Ancona, Italy and a one night performance in Venice, Italy July 6-24

Recorded with the Hot 8 Brass Band

Recorded with Kirk Joseph & the Backyard Groovers

Recorded with vocalist Ann Sally on a CD to be released sometime in 2005.

2005-08 Collaborated with the organization Finding Our Folk, travelling to various Gulfcoast regions reaching out to displaced hurricane survivors

2006, 2008 Appeared in Spike Lee's documentary "When the Levees Broke" and the sequel "If God's Willing and the Creek Don't Rise"

2008-09 Hot 8 Music Outreach Program. 8-week curriculum focusing on the history and culture of New Orleans music, self-discipline and musicianship, and instrument knowledge.

2010-11 Taped and appeared in several episodes of HBO's Series "Treme"

Current Working with Brass Bands in New Orleans, including the Hot 8 Brass Band, the Original New Orleans Brass Band, Tornado Brass Band, Kirk Joseph's Brass Band, and Eddie Boh Paris and the Funky Seven Brass Band; leading a group called Dr. Rackle and the Sound Griots, which is also working on an upcoming recording project. Also working in other groups around town such as Kenneth Plaisance, Kirk Joseph & the Backyard Groovers, and Sullivan Dabney.