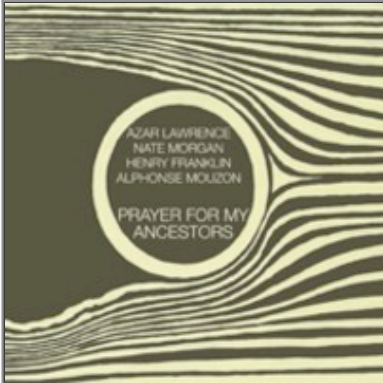


Azar Lawrence

Contact Artist | Contact RadioWave Music Services

Artist Bio/Contact Information



In African culture, great reverence and respect are bestowed upon the elders because they impart wisdom to their offspring. After their transition, their spirits are celebrated in music, dance and song. Rituals and ceremonies depict such milestones as birth, rites of passage, marriage and death. These timeless traditions have forged family values for thousands of years. During a lifelong odyssey, saxophonist, composer and bandleader Azar Lawrence has delved deeply into his lineage, connecting directly with the Motherland. Open Sesame, a captivating piece by Lawrence, sets the tone for the entire session. Its free form intro starkly contrasts with Azar's assertive tenor. Bassist Henry Franklin brought a chart entitled Under Tanzanian Skies to the studio. His exotic line is well-suited for Azar's probing soprano. Once again, "The Skipper" is purposeful and productive. Throughout the year, he frequently releases several dates as a leader on his own label.

Vocalist and guitarist Ibrahima Ba joins master kora player Amadu Fall for a compelling interlude on Thokole, The kora is a 21-string lute that is primarily played in Senegal, Mali, Guinea and The Gambia. Both functional and ornate, the kora is made when a large calabash gourd is cut in half and covered with cowhide to form a resonator. The thumb and index fingers of both hands are used to make polyrhythmic patterns. Skilled kora players from the Mandinka tribes are griots who tell stories. These ancient sagas are passed on to their descendants. Azar's Prayer for My Ancestors is his latest, sacred offering. He composed the title track. With grace and unbridled humility, during a heightened state of consciousness, Lawrence embarks on a boundless journey in his quest for truth. Azar reveals, "As we cross the bridge into the New Age, the music of the spheres guides us." Drummer Alphonse Mouzon stokes the fire with a tart, crash cymbal that creates added tension. His sizzling accents and torrid brass from trumpeter Nolan Shaheed, vividly portray The Baker's Daughter. If we occasionally forget that the piano is a percussion instrument, Nate Morgan's thunderous chords are here to remind us. Although he is heavily influenced by McCoy Tyner, Nate is musically his own man. Morgan's extraordinary technique is readily apparent on his Swingin' In Exhile. Nate merely explains, "The more I play, the more fluid it becomes." On Ode to Pharoah, a reflective Azar pays homage to Pharoah Sanders. Veteran bassist Tony Dumas anchors the band while a subdued Mouzon adds sensitive brushwork. Lawrence composed Linda G., a personal tribute to a close friend. From beginning to end, this engaging outing for Furthermore Recordings remains poised on destiny's doorstep. There is no need to wonder. Azar simply assembled an array of stellar players that also included percussionist Reagae Clarke and first-call drummer Roy McCurdy. "These individuals were drawn together to perform this prayer. It was a mystical event", said Lawrence.

With this ensemble's inherent capacity to heal, I hope other projects will follow. Jeffrey Winston is a Los Angeles-based journalist, producer and jazz historian.

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Available Titles: Titles available in 256 kbps stereo MP3 files. Windows Media Player is required to hear sound samples.

Song Title - Release - Imprint/PRO

Hear It

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Prayer For My AncestorsTaken from the release *Prayer For My Ancestors*

Furthermore | ASCAP

**Azar Lawrence Can Be Heard On The Following Monitored Stations:**

Station	Market	Format	Group
Jazz From Gallery 41	Online	Smooth Jazz/Fusion	Live365
KANU	Topeka, KS	Jazz	Terrestrial
KAZI	Austin, TX	R&B/Hip-Hop	Terrestrial
KBCS	Seattle - Tacoma, WA	Triple A (NC)	Terrestrial
KBOO	Portland, OR	College Variety	Terrestrial
KCBX	Santa Maria - Lompoc, CA	Jazz	Terrestrial
KCLU	Oxnard - Ventura, CA	Jazz	Terrestrial
KCSM	San Francisco, CA	Jazz	Terrestrial
KEWU	Spokane, WA	Jazz	Terrestrial
KFAI	Minneapolis - St. Paul, MN	College Variety	Terrestrial
KHID	McAllen - Brownsville - Harlingen, TX	Classical	Terrestrial
KIOS	Omaha, NE - Council Bluffs, IA	Classical	Terrestrial
KKFI	Kansas City, MO-KS	College Variety	Terrestrial
KKJZ	Los Angeles, CA	Jazz	Terrestrial
KLCC	Eugene - Springfield, OR	Triple A (NC)	Terrestrial
KMHD	Portland, OR	Jazz	Terrestrial
KNTU	Dallas - Ft. Worth, TX	Jazz	Terrestrial
KPLU	Seattle - Tacoma, WA	Jazz	Terrestrial
KRCB	Santa Rosa, CA	College Americana	Terrestrial
KSDS	San Diego, CA	Jazz	Terrestrial
KSJS	San Jose, CA	College Variety	Terrestrial
KTSU	Houston - Galveston, TX	Jazz	Terrestrial
KUAZ	Tucson, AZ	Jazz	Terrestrial
KUER	Salt Lake City - Ogden - Provo, UT	Jazz	Terrestrial
KUNC	Ft. Collins - Greeley, CO	College Variety	Terrestrial

KUNM	Albuquerque, NM	Triple A (NC)	Terrestrial
KUNV	Las Vegas, NV	Jazz	Terrestrial
KUVO	Denver - Boulder, CO	Jazz	Terrestrial
KVPR	Fresno, CA	Classical	Terrestrial
KXJZ	Sacramento, CA	Jazz	Terrestrial
KXLU	Los Angeles, CA	College Variety	Terrestrial
WAMC	Albany - Schenectady - Troy, NY	College Variety	Terrestrial
WBFO	Buffalo - Niagara Falls, NY	Jazz	Terrestrial
WBGO	New York, NY		Terrestrial
WBGO	New York, NY	Jazz	Terrestrial
WBLU	Grand Rapids, MI	Classical	Terrestrial
WCLK	Atlanta, GA	Jazz	Terrestrial
WCLV	Cleveland, OH	Classical	Terrestrial
WCPN	Cleveland, OH	Jazz	Terrestrial
WCVE	Richmond, VA	Classical	Terrestrial
WDNA	Miami - Ft. Lauderdale - Hollywood, FL	Jazz	Terrestrial
WDUQ	Pittsburgh, PA	Jazz	Terrestrial
WFDD	Greensboro - Winston-Salem - High Point, NC	Classical	Terrestrial
WFPK	Louisville, KY	Triple A (NC)	Terrestrial
WGBH	Boston, MA	College Variety	Terrestrial
WGMC	Rochester, NY	Jazz	Terrestrial
WGTE	Detroit, MI	Classical	Terrestrial
WGVU	Grand Rapids, MI	Jazz	Terrestrial
WJSU	Jackson, MS	Jazz	Terrestrial
WLNP	Wilkes Barre - Scranton, PA	AC	Terrestrial
WMNF	Tampa - St. Petersburg - Clearwater, FL	College Variety	Terrestrial
WNCU	Raleigh - Durham, NC		Terrestrial
WNCU	Raleigh - Durham, NC	Jazz	Terrestrial
WORT	Madison, WI	College Variety	Terrestrial
WPFW	Washington, DC	Jazz	Terrestrial

WRFG	Atlanta, GA	College Variety	Terrestrial
WRTI	Philadelphia, PA	Jazz	Terrestrial
WSHA	Raleigh - Durham, NC	Jazz	Terrestrial
WSIE	St. Louis, MO	Jazz	Terrestrial
WTEB	Greenville - New Bern - Jacksonville, NC	Classical	Terrestrial
WTUL	New Orleans, LA	College Variety	Terrestrial
WUCF	Orlando, FL	Jazz	Terrestrial
WUWF	Pensacola, FL	Classical	Terrestrial
WVIA	Wilkes Barre - Scranton, PA	Jazz	Terrestrial
WWOZ	New Orleans, LA	Jazz	Terrestrial
WWUH	Hartford - New Britain - Middletown, CT	College Variety	Terrestrial
WYCE	Grand Rapids, MI	College Variety	Terrestrial
WYPR	Baltimore, MD	Jazz	Terrestrial
WZNB	Greenville - New Bern - Jacksonville, NC	News/Talk	Terrestrial

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