

Cousin Jeff answers questions about activism

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The Voice: How do you think people view humanity?

Cousin Jeff: When I discussed an individual's view on humanity, I meant that people don't know who leaders like Huey Newton, Malcolm X, and Martin Luther King, Jr. are, what they did, or their troubles on a daily basis. Besides the FBI wiretapping their phones, and individual assassination attempts, you don't know who they are. Leaders become too big and become inhumane. Some receive unrealistic success, while some receive triumphant greatness. People loved Malcolm X for how he got to the nation after a triumph of his mess. People loved Tupac because he was transparent, and talked about his problems. He asked for help, and that's how he transcended and evolved.

The Voice: Can you elaborate a little more on indictments against

activists?

Cousin Jeff: People don't understand that most activists died broke, and were not taken care of. Dr. Betty Shabazz died poor; Rosa Parks went through several financial constraints; and Coretta Scott King died barely making it as well. They were going through things emotionally and psychologically, involved in shoot outs, and their phones were tapped. Malcolm X's grandson is in jail in New York, which is a direct indictment against the whole movement.

The Voice: How do we go about protecting activists?

Cousin Jeff: First we need to create institutions that raise resources for jobs. Most activists aren't about making large amounts of money, but let's be realistic, they have families to take care of, and they need some type of sustenance. We then need to create communal environments, and

create communities for the protection of activists. We can start with small groups with commitments, and then develop a support system. We should begin to pay it forward, so it may become an aspect of our culture. **The Voice:** How do you feel about leading without followers?

Cousin Jeff: We are getting realistic here. Everyone isn't coming. There are 50 senators in the country, 365 congressional reps, and 300 plus million people. There can never be a time where all people expect or accept leadership. You just need to offer the opportunities to lead. Give the people what they need. Leadership is about representation. Those senators and congressional reps represent the people of this country. If we feel we aren't represented, we need to hold them accountable.

The Voice: I know we left it a couple of questions back, but how

do you feel about activists looking at this service as an occupation, and making those who need guidance pay excessive amounts of money? For instance, I heard Dr. Cornel West was extremely expensive. I am trying to understand why speakers are so expensive when they want to get their own message out.

Cousin Jeff: The way I look at it, just because you can't afford him, doesn't mean you can't afford the closest thing to him. Would you go to the Bentley dealership with a Chrysler 300 budget? Go get you a Chrysler 300 until you can get your Bentley. You have to take in to account how some of these people are living, how many mouths they have to feed, and what they need in order to survive. Value their voices, stop looking at their names. Take chances and bring what you can afford. There are a lot of younger activists who are out here and can give you

what you need. The question is: will you stop looking at big names like Dr. Cornel West to come, and bring someone just as valuable?

The Voice: I truly do thank you for your time Jeff.

Cousin Jeff: I thank you as well Ms. Keisha.

Cousin Jeff definitely has a voice that is invaluable.

What I admire most about him is his ability to convey an audience attention, as well as his ability to back up his statements with facts. He is a very down to earth man with an agenda.

He wants this generation to step our game up 100%. He let's us know that we have to stop listening to Martin Luther King Jr's "I Have a Dream" speech, and begin our own movement.

A movement that will be everlasting, as well as precious for our own generation.

Students encouraged to participate in International String Orchestra Festival

The International String Orchestra Festival (ISOF) is an annual event which will start off in Malta between the 8th and the 15th of April 2007. Students from all over the world are invited to come to study and perform.

A line up of professional musicians will be giving master classes, lectures, workshops, and leading the principal parts of the orchestra. These include Matthias Wollong, leader of the European Union Chamber Orchestra, ORF-Symphony Orchestra, the Berlin Radio Symphony Orchestra, the Philharmonic Orchestra of Halle, the Staatskapelle Dresden and the Orchestra of the Bayreuth Festival. Emanuel Salvador, leader of the Orquestra do Norte of Portugal, Mats Lidström, professor at the Royal Academy of Music, Yuko Inoue, professor at the Royal College of Music and Katarina Trollhagen Principal Double Bass player of the Stockholm Mozart Orchestra, will be giving lectures and leading the different sections of the String Orchestra.

There will be daily concerts, in heritage sites (such as the National museum of Fine Arts, St James Cavalier centre for Creativity, Auberge d'Italie and The Archaeology museum), where the students and professionals will perform to the general public. Pianists Hanja Strydom and Oskar Ekberg will be at the students' disposal to accompany them during these recitals.

The Festival will culminate with a gala concert under the baton of Bjørn Bantock at one of Europe's oldest Baroque concert venues, The Manoel Theatre, with a performance which will include Barber's Adagio for Strings, Bartok's Divertimento for Strings, Dvorak's Serenade for Strings, Karl

Fiorini's Stimuli.

The price will amount to £300 (lodging included B&B).

This festival will be held under the distinguished patronage of His Excellency, Dr. Edward Fenech Adami, President of the Republic of Malta.

There will be organized chamber concerts where the students and the professors themselves will perform in heritage sites (as mentioned above).

The students will have orchestral rehearsals everyday which will be sectional and full. In this case each section will be coached by the professional musicians mentioned above.

The students will also have daily individual master classes with these musicians. Orchestral rehearsals will be coached by Bjørn Bantock with the above musicians leading the different sections.

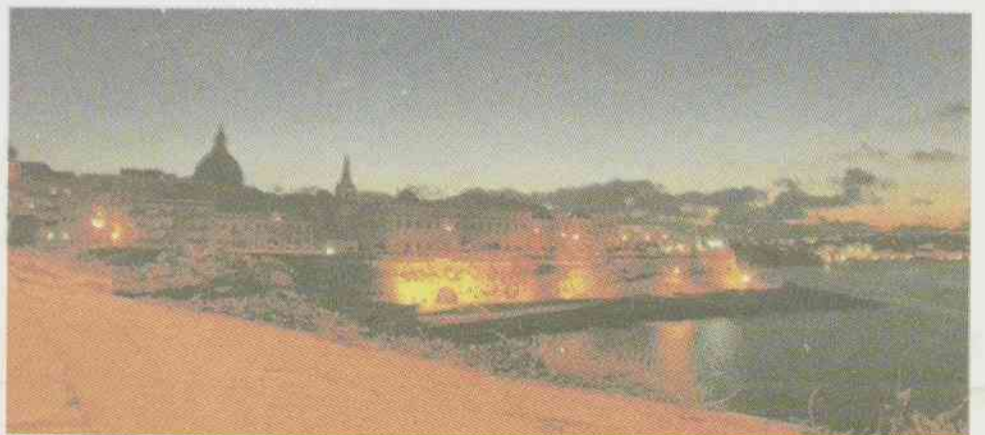
The concerts on heritage sites are open to solo musicians but also to ensembles who would want to participate in the festival as a ready formed group. These will also be given master classes.

Students interested in participating are requested to send an audio CD, cassette or mini disk recording together with detailed curriculum vitae, contact information, a letter of reference from their respective Professors, Head of Department or Music College.

The candidates selected will be contacted and listed on the Festival's website.

The course is aimed at students from music schools and music students from all round the world.

It is a unique opportunity to study and perform with some of the world's leading musicians.



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