



Happy New Year to all of you!

My father, Dave Brubeck, was about as American as you can get, growing up on a cattle ranch during the Great Depression in Northern California. Like many of his generation, he did his duty to the country and joined Patton's Army in 1942. He fought against Hitler and fascism in Europe to make sure that this anti-democratic behavior didn't cross over the Atlantic Ocean and stain our shores and change our way of life. Many of his friends died fighting to protect our democratic institutions. The horrors of World War II inspired Dad to vow he would learn how to orchestrate and would compose a stirring oratorio to remind people of the peaceful words of Jesus Christ. His belief was that true followers of Christ's teaching could never instigate a war.

In 1944 far away from Washington, when it was discovered he was a musician, "the brass" asked him to form a band of musician soldiers that could play. His charge was to find wounded soldiers, who happened to have earned a Purple Heart, to entertain the troops. Dad recruited talents which included African American musicians and thus "The Wolfpack," the first integrated band in the Army, was born under the radar near the front in Europe. After the war, Dave fulfilled his promise and studied with Darius Milhaud on the G.I. bill at Mills College in California. The government had stepped in to help those returning soldiers through a difficult time when they got home. He eventually wrote "*The Light in the Wilderness*" which was the oratorio he imagined at the front in 1944. His second big oratorio was "*The Gates of*

Justice."

Dad continued his career with patriotism, furthering the ideals of America when doing a huge tour for the U.S. State Department in 1958. Gene Wright joined the Quartet for this adventure and they played together for the next 11 years making many landmark recordings. Dad's integrated group broke many barriers at Southern venues and the popularity of the sound forged by the quartet overcame the formidable walls of prejudice wherever they performed. Gene and I joined Dave and played together for the Reagan/Gorbachev Summit in Moscow in 1988. Still trying to show the world that America was evolving as a multi-racial society, Dave believed strongly in the promise of America and the beauty of its Constitution. Though the principles Dad fought for 80 years ago have been tested in recent days, my parents would have been very proud to see how resilient those constitutional ideals have proven to be. We Americans, as we did in World War II, need to pull together with the aid of science and courage to conquer the maladies of these modern times. God Bless you all.

Wishing you all good health and good fortune in 2021.

Cheers! ~ Chris



The Gates of Justice

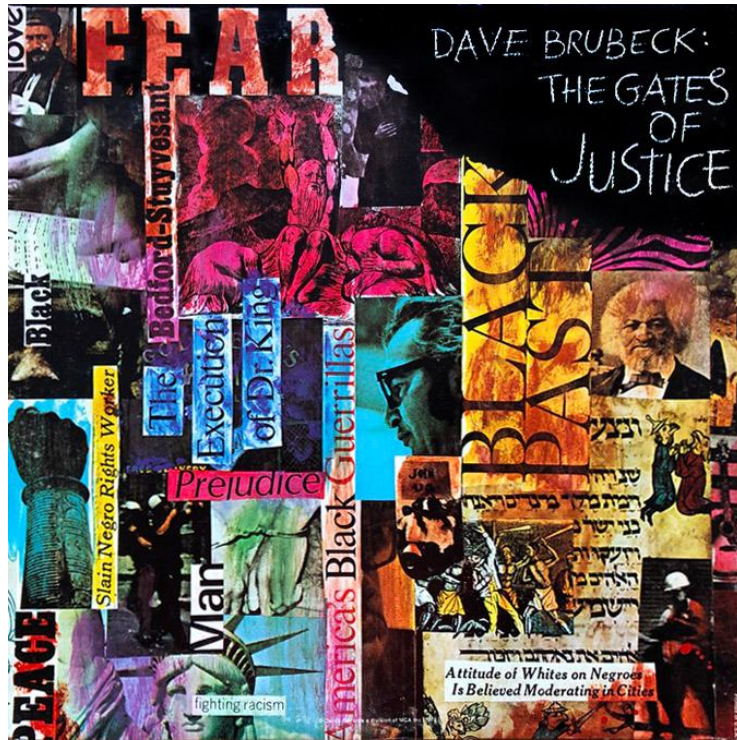
Every January in the United States, we celebrate the life and legacy of Dr. Rev. Martin Luther King, Jr.

In 1969, Dave Brubeck wrote the cantata "The Gates of Justice" for tenor, baritone, chorus, and orchestra with text from Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., Hillel the Elder, Hebrew liturgical texts, the Bible, and additional lyrics by Iola Brubeck, which is the embodiment of "the brotherhood of man."

Dave wrote: "At its core is the sobering message from Martin Luther King, Jr., our contemporary prophet: *'If we don't live together as brothers, we will die together as fools.'*"

On March 25, 2001, the cantata was recorded at the Kraushaar Auditorium at Goucher College in Baltimore, Maryland by the Baltimore Arts Society with Cantor Alberto Mizrahi, baritone Kevin Deas, the Dave Brubeck Trio, conducted by Russell Gloyd.

[Learn more about The Gates of Justice](#)



Remembering Eugene Wright

Bassist Eugene Wright passed away last month at the age of 97. Gene was the last surviving member of the “Classic” Dave Brubeck Quartet, and remained a good friend and honorary Uncle to the Brubeck family to the end.

Known by the jazz community as “The Senator”, Gene was born in Chicago, IL on May 29, 1923. He studied cornet in school and taught himself how to play upright bass. In his early career, Gene led his own band, the Dukes of Swing, and played with the Lonnie Simmons group.

Gene played bass in The Dave Brubeck Quartet for many years, joining the group for their U.S. Department of State tour of Europe and Asia in 1958 and becoming a permanent member the following year. He left the Quartet in 1968 when Dave disbanded the group to pursue his career as a composer, but Gene performed with Dave off and on for many years afterwards, including the famous 1988 Joint State Dinner organized by President Reagan and Secretary Gorbachev in Moscow.

[Read our tribute](#)



Elisa Monte Dance: Unsquare Dance

Dance along with members of the [Elisa Monte Dance](#) company to Dave Brubeck's "Unsquare Dance"!

This version was choreographed by Tiffany Rea-Fisher to a recording by the Dave Brubeck Quartet, featuring Dave Brubeck on piano, Chris Brubeck on bass, Randy Jones on drums, and Bill Smith on clarinet.

[Watch now](#)



New Playlist: Brubeck Seasons

A "bite-sized" playlist for you: Brubeck Seasons. As the weather and light are always changing, we look at the world around us for inspiration.

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