

## acknowledgments

This book is dedicated with thanks to my brother, George L. P. Jenkins, who was there at the earliest stages, shared my earliest music obsessions, and represents our loving ancestral parents, Annalouise and Willard Jenkins Sr., who encouraged our love of music; to my wife, Suzan Jenkins, daughters, Iyesha and Tiffany, and grandson, DQ, for their continued support and inspiration; and to the memory of Randy Weston and the African Rhythms family for such powerful ongoing inspiration in my writing/editing efforts. Thanks also to Frank Alkyer of *DownBeat* magazine and Lee Mergner of *JazzTimes* magazine for their support of the work and the anthology section of this book; and to all of the contributors to our series of *Ain't But a Few of Us* interviews—collectively, your stories were the inspiration behind this book!