

Michael Eure Show Transcript

Black Music Month – Tom Browne

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Michael Eure

Hello, this is Michael Eure and I'd like to invite you to the Michael Eure show, featuring student hosts and very special guests talking about a variety of interesting topics. You can find us on the Eagle Stream YouTube channel.

Earl Ijames

So thank you. I think we're live again back on the Michael Eure Show. And thank you, Mike, again for allowing me to be a guest, co-host and inviting a friend and colleague, Mr. Tom Browne to our Black Music Month and Juneteenth celebration. So thank you again, Michael. Thank you. And with that I'm going to Yes, thank you. Um, and I think with that, I'm going to jump I'm going to jump right back into our history lesson before. Tom takes us home again so Juneteenth is a celebration of freedom, and the outlaw of slavery for everyone, especially our enslaved ancestors, who obviously were most affected and most affected by the horrible institution of slavery. But make no mistake about it. Slavery was a curse on the land for everyone, white, black, Indian, young, old, and it afflicted everyone. And it caused many perverse laws and customs. That one of the reasons that we celebrate and Juneteenth and freedom today is we're still fighting against many of those customs, that literally descend from laws from slavery, and the Reconstruction Era, and literally a century Jim Crow, separate and unequal laws. Yet Juneteenth was the first aspiration of freedom here in North Carolina literally after 200 years of actual slavery. You think about that for a moment. Here in North Carolina, along with the Carolina char and sick, literally fall of Fort Fisher with the capture of United States and the passage of the 13th amendment. There are 202 years of legal sanctioned slavery. And if you think about the map, we're only 155 years removed from the legal curse of slavery. So we are still unlearning many of the customs as has been and some of our most recent news. So, I think Mike is on the show you, Tom and Mike or-

Michael Eure

No, we had technical difficulties but thank you, Earl, you've been a very good co host and we're gonna bring you back in a little bit later, but I know that the audience is wanting to hear something from Mr. Browne who is a pilot, by the way of Mississippi he flew all the way, Texas, which is a great place to be celebrating Juneteenth. And I thank you Earl, for bringing them to the Museum of History During one of our African American Cultural Celebrations of where we serve on board together, and so Mr. Browne, tell us a little bit about what you want to talk about today and give us some concert.

Tom Browne

Well, music is probably the healing balm that enables me to stay sane in the midst of everything that's going on out there. That thank God for our history because that's that's what we grab onto and and relate to as we move forward. That's what's going to to keep all people I think moving forward is just you cannot know where you go without know where you've been. And so, so I am just thankful for that man. I'm not pleased to see what's happening out there in the world with certain individuals, but it is

what it is. And we've always been a strong people, I think we will prevail through this as well. But music is my sanity. That is to say the least. And thanks for having me on. I'll try to try to provide a little bit of it right here.

Michael Eure

All right, so Earl, and I will be leaving now, and you'll have to yourself, sir.

Tom Browne

All right, well, let's see what I could do. I got a couple of tracks in here that let me see if I can get the ball rolling with a little track that was made popular by Herbie Hancock but I'm gonna see what I could do on this.

Michael Eure

All right. Thank you. And, yeah, anybody in the audience that have a question, you can type it in the chat question or a comment.

[MUSIC]

Michael Eure

All right, thank you. Yeah. And you know, that was excellent. And we know that you just getting a little bit of breath, but you're used to doing concerts so we want you to go ahead and do another set. Do another one. If you got it ready.

Tom Browne

Well, let's see. What do I have? You know, it's funny cuz I got all these tracks on this computer. I'm trying to just see what might be appropriate here. Oh, I'm not gonna play that Jamaica Funk.

Michael Eure

Now you have a new album that you that you just put out tell us a little bit about that place.

Tom Browne

There's a new one that's actually coming out shortly it's called Come What May and it's a dedication to my wife's victory over breast cancer she had double stage one breast cancer a few years back and God was good we caught it early, her, her going through that is perhaps the reason I'm still out here doing this flying gig working because health insurance is so critical as an additive to the job so here I should I should be retired retired from flying I'm 65 but um, you know, it is what it is and I gotta keep my wife healthy. So I'm that's why I'm, but the new album is dedicated to her. Coming out next month, on July 7 on the individual record, there's a single called Just Work. That's that's first one from the album coming out.

Earl Ijames

Very good.

Michael Eure

I'm sorry. We have so many technical difficulties, you know, we got to have you come back and do it completely smoothly. Now, I'm just interested in hearing some more music, we're stepping away again and giving it back to you.

Tom Browne

All right, well, here's, here's something that's from that new CD. It was a track that I dedicated to my wife and it's called Me Amore.

[MUSIC]

Michael Eure

Thank you. And we're going to just take a time to ask you one question. Do you write your own music?

Tom Browne

Quite a bit of it. A lot of the material on this album and the last couple of albums was co written by the lady who was singing actually, Joy San Mateo, who's out gracing around the Netherlands. And, and, and myself, so we did most of the writing on the records.

Michael Eure

And I noticed that in your earlier days, and I guess even now says you can fly used to perform in a lot of countries, France, England, Germany, how was that experience for you?

Tom Browne

Oh for a jazz artist it's great, you know, going abroad. You can you can sense and see the difference between a nation that's got 250 years of history versus a nation that's been around for 5, 6, 7 thousand years. When I go to Europe, I go to England you know, England is so rich a country with African immigrants and people coming in from all over the place and it's just basically, "Hey, how you doing?" You know, it's everyone is used to and accustomed to the variety of cultures and and the spice of life and I enjoy it. I don't I don't necessarily get that as much over here. So I enjoy traveling quite a bit.

Michael Eure

And I don't know if Earl may have asked you this earlier when I was backstage and couldn't get upstage. But did you give us your contact information if individuals want to get in touch with you and maybe do some things with you?

Tom Browne

Yeah, sure. They can go straight to my website, which is Tom, Tom Browne T-O-M-B-R-O-W-N-E dot org. I tried to get .com but someone had beat me to it and tried to charge \$3,000 for my own name and so I said, "No, that ain't gonna work." Tom and Tom, tombrowne.org. Or you could email me at tom@tombrowne.org. Or if you go to Facebook, you can go to Tom Browne Jamaica Funk on Facebook.

Michael Eure

And for the audience and just because you don't know, he is very down to earth. So if you email him, he will email you back.

Tom Browne

Absolutely.

Michael Eure

Those of you that might have some young people interested in music or even, I guess, do you still work with young people teaching them how to fly?

Tom Browne

I do. I was, this job has taken up so much my time, but I was very involved with a gentleman named Warren Wheeler. Mr. Wheeler runs an organization called Carwings and also Airline Flight Support, which is out right out of the Hayti Heritage Center in Durham. And we're teaching young kids, primarily our kids, primarily African American kids, to earn their wings and get into places like Elizabeth City State.

Michael Eure

We're going to ask that, Tom if you want to just do one or two others, and we're going to end it like that. And I'd like to thank everybody for participating and Earl, we'll just have to bring you back to talk about Juneteenth. A little bit more, maybe next week, because right now, we're not gonna be able to get all that important information out. So have the Earl and I are gone. And it's up to you, Tom, and thank you, Earl. Thank you, Tom, for coming today.

Earl Ijames

Yeah. Well, thanks, Thank you Tom.

Tom Browne

Thank you for having me. Let's see. I said I wasn't gonna do Jamaica, but I do have a few. We have a little version of it. So I gotta do that. He is an ordinary guy thing. Let me see if I can get that queued up somehow.

[MUSIC]

Tom Browne (to music)

Ma'am and stuff like that. Now y'all notice I know y'all notice it's been out for too long without when I had hair Okay, so I know you'll notice that when the time comes around you got to say this right so I'll let you know. All right, here we go. Yeah. Oh my. Mike's out there right? Where's Mike? Where's Mike? There's Mike right there! Trying to queue here we go. Yeah, Oh Mike. Man go ahead and take it to the cosmos. Betty Boop. Was jumping up and down. This is the craziest song I ever wrote.

Tom Browne

Hey, y'all, thank you so much for having me. I do appreciate your support for my music, support What's going on? God bless you all.

Michael Eure

Well we want you to stay a little bit longer. We found out we have some questions in the queue. And I don't want the audience to think we ignore them if you can just answer them real quickly.

Tom Browne

Absolutely. Let me see what's so let me go to the live comments here see it says-

Michael Eure

What actionable steps would you offer to aspiring artists studying music, entertainment related?

Tom Browne

The most important thing that I tell, to me, the most important thing I tell a lot of young budding musicians is to study the business of music. Musical talent is a gift from God that can be developed. But the ability to make your sustenance for years to come, rather than giving it away to a record label, which would very much desire for you to do that is the, is the key. I've put music out from 1979-1980 I'm still getting a lot of royalties on. So the key, the key is to learn learn the business of music, learn how to make the music business work for you. And that means learn your publishing rights, your writer's rights, what copyright is, how to get your copyright. Those, those are the aspects that I really want to work with young people on because you know, someone's someone's so gung ho to get a record out that they forget that they're just making someone else rich, and you know, offer their their blood sweat and tears and they're having to get a record out and so that's that's not that's not the way to go.

Michael Eure

Now Flo, how you doing? Ah, she just said she was late coming, but she would like to know how to get copies of your CD,

Tom Browne

The new CD will be out on Intervision Records. So very, very fine smooth jazz label should be available on iTunes, Amazon or if you go directly to the Intervisions Records, Intervision Records website you can find out how to get those directly but it should be available online almost almost everywhere.

Michael Eure

Well, I think that does it for us. And you've been really good and we're going to bring you back and we're going to bring you back Earl as well and thank you again. And you know, I want you to take us out Tom, we just gonna take advantage of the fact you got that trumpet which you know, one more song and then we're gone.

Tom Browne

Well, how about what I'm gonna do is I'm going to, let's do something. Sorry, I cut myself out. Let's do let's do some for that for the times. And since we're in the midst of something that is that we're all trying to make our way through and that's, that's this COVID situation. Here's something that was for my wife, but it applies to COVID also. And the song's called, I Believe it's it actually features Joy Ann Matteo. So I'm gonna let her words minister, as we go out. Here's I Believe.

[MUSIC]

Michael Eure

Thank you. Thank you again Tom and for the audience, next week, we'll have Roenitia Steward and friends and they'll be doing some old school ballads and talking about history of African American music. And, Tom, I can't thank you enough for coming. And Earl, thank you so much for introducing me to him some time ago. And we will hopefully have both of you back in the future and till next time. Next week. We'll see you at 12 o'clock on the Michael Eure Show, and I will announce this is also going to be on YouTube. But you went through our technical difficulties it will be edited and up for you to view starting this evening. Thank you.

Tom Browne

Thanks, all.