



DOC CITY *Welcome to Doc City (Deluxe Edition)*

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WHEN YOU ARE NEAR (Clarence Taylor, MD lyrics/Lafayette Carthon music) 3:37

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Cover Painting "Doc City" by B. Skufca

Painting "Black on Black" by Xavier Sylvia-Jackson

Back Cover Abstract "Storm Cloud" by Xavier Sylvia-Jackson



TO PARAPHRASE CHARLES DICKENS,
*“These are the best of times, these
are the worst of times”.*

MY MUSICAL JOURNEY: My musical journey: In the seventies, at age 15, I was the bassist in several R&B, Funk and Rock bands in the Virginia, Washington, DC area. During college, my career diverted to medicine. Again around 2003, I was heavily involved in music almost as much as I was involved in medicine. I had a great band and had released my CD entitled Doc City Kindred Spirits. It was an exciting time in music for me. Then life happened. My dearest mother became severely ill. I dropped everything to be with my mother, including the music. She passed away later that year. I temporarily lost interest in music and pretty much everything. I had lost my best friend.

As it comes to pass, time has a way of creating perspective, introspection and

healing. In grieving my mother, I came to remember the importance of music in my life. My mother was very proud of my accomplishments as a physician. She knew however, that my deep love for music was essential to me. Even after I had obtained my medical degree, she would ask me foremost, *“how is your music?”* It has occurred to me over and over, the further I get away from my music, the less fulfilled I am.

I started working on this album several years ago. Had it not been for the Covid-19 pandemic putting life on hold, as it did for so much of the world, it is possible I never would have completed the project. Life has taught me that there are things we have no control over. These things are often interestingly timed, causing us to reevalu-

ate and perhaps search for new perspective and new meaning. During these times, the fragility of life, the importance of daily gratitude, graciousness and spiritual awareness come more into focus. This time of universal unrest and the world pandemic created a huge pause. It revealed to me, nothing is certain or promised. Even with the best of plans, ultimately, we are not in total control. There is indeed a higher power, spirit or energy whatever you may choose to call it, that we must collectively recognize.

I had also planned to write a book at some point. Perhaps you will see I've written a short book for my liner notes. I started to entitle this album *“At a Loss for Words,”* but then decided this is indeed a time when I need to speak through my music. I have been a physician of emergency medicine and internal medicine for 20 years. We appear to be on the precipice of a reckoning point in time; a worldwide rise in political discord and violence, another war, the despicable tolerance of mass

shootings and the shameless blind eye to the suffering of others. Have our souls been degraded to such depravity? We are also almost three years into a pandemic as never seen before. As physicians and healthcare providers there have always been inherent risks. We are exposed to infectious diseases, the mental stress and trauma of dealing with life, death, and illness on a daily basis. Rarely, however has there been such a prolonged physical and emotional toll on medical professionals. I stopped asking myself many years ago why bad things happen, why good people suffer and die, sometimes the most vulnerable. I stopped asking why there is so much disease, pain and suffering. I would have ended up in a mental institution pondering these questions. I realized there are simply no answers, at least in this lifetime.

This is also a time of tremendous social unrest, an overdue reconciliation with racism, prejudices and hatred among people simply for being different. This is both mind-boggling and terribly disheartening. Although I am totally averse to

any violence, I myself have been violently targeted and profiled on more than one occasion. It is all so mystical to me, that we can be so advanced yet so infantile, irrational and frankly hateful to one another. Let me correct that by not saying infantile, for infants and children are not born with this disease of hatred. It is taught.

This is a good time to explain the lyrics of one of my songs, "Did You Choose?" At one point, I did a significant amount of public speaking to different audiences and people of different backgrounds. I would ask the audience, "Who amongst us (always including myself) could answer 'yes' to any of these questions?"

Who amongst us chose, where we were born, or the color of our skin?

Who amongst us chose, what religion we were born into?

What sexual orientation we were born with?

Who amongst us chose what socio-economic status we were born into,

whether to parents in the slums of Somalia, the Appalachian coal mines, the urban ghettos, to crack or heroin addicted parents, or to parents of the academic, economic or political elite?

THE ANSWER TO ALL OF THESE QUESTIONS IS: NONE OF US!!!

You could not possibly have chosen the parents you were born to, where you were born and so many of life's circumstances. You simply had nothing to do with those choices. It is simply what happened in the Universe for you at that moment in time. As for every single one of us, at the time of our birth, we had done nothing to deserve neither good, nor bad. It was mere chance that we are born who we are. Many of the most significant factors behind biases and prejudices, or even the potential for success are simply a product of chance. We should have a profound sense of gratitude and also obligation to give back, if those chance events have smiled favorably upon us.

No one is an unaffected bystander. We all lose when decency and humanity on any level are compromised. Whether through crimes and the added cost created by social, physical and psychological neglect or perhaps most importantly through our moral demise and decline.

The B-section of this song reflects poetry and quotes from turbulent periods in history when these messages were so pertinent, yet seem to be so easily forgotten. Why do we continue to make the same mistakes over and over? Perhaps it is a human flaw.

As a physician, I have treated patients from all around the world. I try very hard not to judge and find it much more rewarding to be open to another's soul and experiences. I have found that regardless of our differences, we all basically want the same things in life: love, health, happiness and respect. What I find most surreal is that in medicine we can transplant organs between people of different races, different ethnicities from

different parts of the world. You can live with a heart, kidney, liver, lungs, or even the eye lens of a person from a totally different race or ethnicity. We can literally walk and live with another's heart and see through the lens of another's eyes from a totally different culture, yet we are quick to disdain and disrespect people because of our differences.

Much of my music is about social conditions, but also about feelings, for I feel love, joy and pain deeply.

My father, the Reverend Joseph E. Taylor, Sr. was a Baptist minister. He was my idol and my mentor. From as early as I can remember, I spent countless days listening to and being part of live music in the church. The unique experience of growing up listening to live gospel music often multiple times a week, somehow incorporates that soulful sound into one's DNA. Therefore, for this album I decided to go back to my roots: the Gospel Church, spirituals and the soul therein. Most of the principal musi-

cians on this project came up in that same experience. Then there's the preacher's kid. The list of musicians who have come out of this tradition is vast and rich. I will list a few, because it is an immensely proud fraternity. We call ourselves PKs:

Nat King Cole
Marvin Gay
Jimmy Webb
Nina Simone
Sam Cook
D Angelo
Billy Preston
Dennis Edwards
Gregory Porter
Sly Stone
Aretha Franklin
Liz Wright
Al Jarreau
Little Richard
Wyclef Jean
David Ruffin
Brian Blade
Phillip Jones II
John Coltrane, raised by his grandfather a minister

WHAT LOVE IS

(Erin Boheme, Rob Chiarelli)

Produced and Arranged by Doc City
Production assistance: Phillip Jones, II
Lead vocals: Evelyn Wright
Background vocals: Reggie Kelly, Tina Farmer
Spoken Words: Doc City
Keyboards: Phillip Jones, II
Keyboards: Doc City
Trumpet: Sean Jones
Bass: Steven Mackey
Guitar: Jackson Allen
Drums: Tony McClung

Lyrics to Outro:

What Love Is
Is it Respect?
What Love Is
Is it Unconditional?
What Love Is
Is it a Friend in times of Need?
What Love Is
Is it Having Your Back?
What Love Is
A Waggy Tail at your Door? *(a tribute to our 4-legged family, Feller, who reminds us*

constantly what true unconditional love is)

What love Is
Do you really Know?

WHEN YOU ARE NEAR

*(Clarence Taylor, MD lyrics/
Lafayette Carthon music)*

Produced and Arranged by Doc City
Lead vocals: Tina Farmer
Piano: Lafayette Carthon
Trumpet: Sean Jones
Bass: Steven Mackey
Drums: Tony McClung
Orchestral String Arrangement: Alex Brown

Lyrics:

My heart only speaks when you are near
Sweet poetry lines, (it) whispers in my ears
When you're not around
No meaning can be found
Emotionless days re-appear
My heart only speaks when you are near
It sings songs of love, I often hear
When you're not around
No comfort can be found

The warmth of your embrace disappears
My heart only speaks when you are near
When alone with me; -
my heart travels down
these crooked roads; -
tangled in the weeds of life,
no voice or words to ----
explain the joy the pain,
or make some sense of life --- for me
My heart only speaks when you are near
My heart doesn't know. ----
when love should care
When you're not around
The awful silent sound
My heart only speaks when you are near
Oh my, heart only speaks
when you are near
Oh my, heart only speaks
when you are near

DID YOU CHOOSE?

(Clarence Taylor, MD)

Produced and Arranged by Doc City
Production assistance: Dave Frazer

Lead and background vocals: Doc City
Keyboards, Bass and Drums: Phillip Jones, II
Guitar: Jackson Allen
Guitar: Kevin Oliver

A Curtis Mayfield inspired tune, in deference to the many artists: Bob Dylan, Stevie Wonder, Joni Mitchell, Marvin Gaye, Nina Simone, Bruce Springsteen and others who made it a mission to address social issues through their music.

Lyrics:

Did you choose where you were born?
A loving mother, father or none?
Did you choose the color of your skin?
The race of those you call your kin?
Did you choose the culture your
ancestors bare?
The name you bow your head to in prayer?

They came after the Hispanics and the Asians
I did nothing because I was neither
They came after the Jewish people
and the Muslims
I did nothing because I was neither
They came after the LGBTQ and the Poor

I did nothing because I was neither
If they come after me; will there be anyone?

Did you choose to be the targeted,
different one?

Bullied and harassed by the ignorant,
just for fun?

Did you choose the sex of those you love
and desire?

To endure the hatred and scorn,
by those who conspire?

He said, "In the end; we will not remember
the words of our enemies

But by the silence of our friends"

No one is an innocent bystander
We all lose, when decency and humanity
towards anyone is compromised
I hope your God Loves My God

***(1st bridge paraphrased from a poem
by Martin Neimoller)***

***(2nd bridge, first part taken from a quote
by MLK)***

***(2nd bridge, second quote from one of
my speeches)***

SWEETEST TABOO

(Sade Adu, Martin Ditcham)

Produced and Arranged by Doc City

Lead vocals: Tina Farmer

Rap: Orlando Watson

Background vocals: Reggie Kelly, Doc City

Keyboards: Phillip Jones, II

Keyboards: Doc City

Bass Synth: Steve Cox

Guitar: Jackson Allen

Guitar: Kevin Oliver

Drums: Tony McClung

Percussion: Jamey Haddad

***For Sweetest Taboo, I wanted to explore taking it
through a journey of many genres, R&B, Gospel,
Jazz, Hip Hop and Rock.***

NO GOODBYES

(Clarence Taylor, MD)

Produced and Arranged by Doc City

Lead vocals: Reggie Kelley

Keyboards and Drums: Phillip Jones, II

Flugelhorn: Sean Jones

Guitar: Jackson Allen

Bass: Steven Mackey

Orchestral String Arrangement: Doc City

and Alex Brown

Lyrics:

I never meant to lose you

I never wanted to say goodbye

I'll always love you

There's a place in my heart just for you

Why didn't it last, I don't know why

I won't sigh

The times we shared are never ending

There's nothing time could ever erase

Though I'm in a different space

Doesn't mean that you've been misplaced

Why didn't it last, I don't know why

I won't sigh

There seems to be, so many questions

The answer is, we did nothing wrong

I'll always care for you

There's a place in my heart for just us two

There's no chance of losing you

In this life, in my heart, there's no goodbyes

In this life, in my mind, there's no goodbyes

In this life, in my soul, there's no goodbyes

You'll never leave my mind – my soul –

my heart – my love

YOUR EGO TOO

(Clarence Taylor, MD)

Produced and Arranged by Doc City
Production assistance: Phillip Jones, II
Lead and background vocals: Doc City
Keyboards and Drums: Phillip Jones, II
Hammond B3 Organ: Phillip Jones, II
Guitar: Kevin Oliver

Lyrics:

Nobody's praying just for you
Nobody's loves you the way you do
Nobody's life with just you would ever do
Nobody's gives a damn about what you do
It's time to get over only loving you
It's time to get over praising you
It's time to get over playing you
It's time to get over, your ego too
Nobody's cares how you wear your hair
Nobody's cares about your money affairs
Nobody's cares about the brand you use
Nobody's wants to hear your selfish
attitude
It's time to get over only loving you
It's time to get over praising you

It's time to get over playing you
It's time to get over, your ego too
It's time to get over, your ego too
You always want someone kissing your rear
Being treated the same is your greatest fear
Have you ever wondered why you
ended up here
Might be cause you're INSECURE!!
Might be cause you're INSECURE!!

*Reverend Leotis' response to an ever-rising
prevalence of narcissism and delusional
perspective of one's over-importance in the
essence of life; my Sigmund Freud's analysis.*

HEART JUST WON'T GIVE UP

(Clarence Taylor, MD)

Produced and Arranged by Doc City
Production assistance: Phillip Jones II,
Steve Cox, Jim Reitzel
Lead vocals: Tina Farmer
Background vocals: Reggie Kelley
Keyboards: Phillip Jones, II
Keyboards: Doc City
Hammond B3 Organ: Steve Cox
Guitar: Jackson Allen

Bass: Steven Mackey
Drums: Tony McClung

Lyrics:

I know I told you
You need to fine some other one
I'd found another, I said our day was done
The times we had
I thought I had left them all in the past
Now I am still here
Though there is no more to say
But, my heart just won't give up
You found another
Said it was the best thing for you
I found another-- lover too
Foolishly, out of my mind
Because I left my heart behind
Now I am still here
Though there is no more to say
But, my heart just won't give up

I'LL STILL BE THERE FOR YOU

(Clarence Taylor, MD)

Produced and Arranged by Doc City

Vocals: Doc City
Guitar: Bob Ferrazza
Keyboards: Dan Wall
Flugelhorn: Sean Jones
Cello: Luis Biava
Soprano Saxophone: Kenny Anderson

Lyrics:

I've been ladened oh
I've been hurt some too
I've been ladened over you
I've been burden oh
I've had sorry too
I'll Still be there for you

I've been ladened oh
I've had tears it's true
I've been ladened over you
I've been burden oh
I've been downright through
I'll Still be there for you

WHAT'LL I DO - DUET

(Irving Berlin)

Produced and Arranged by Doc City

Lead Vocals: Evelyn Wright
Lead Vocals: Doc City
Piano, Bass and Drums: Phillip Jones, II
Flugelhorn: Sean Jones
Orchestral String Arrangement: Alex Brown

I'LL STILL BE THERE FOR YOU: REPRISE

(Clarence Taylor, MD)

Produced and Arranged by Doc City
Lead and Background Vocals: Doc City
Fender Rhodes Piano: Doc City
Flugelhorn: Sean Jones

Lyrics:

Whenever you want me,
I'll still be there for you
Whenever you call me,
I'll still be there for you
Whenever you need me,
I'll still be there for you
As long as you love me,
I'll still be there for you

SWEETEST TABOO – DANCE MIX

(Sade Adu, Martin Ditcham)

Produced and Arranged by Doc City
Lead vocals: Tina Farmer
Rap: Orlando Watson
Background vocals: Reggie Kelly, Doc City
Keyboards: Phillip Jones, II
Keyboards: Doc City
Bass Synth: Steve Cox
Guitar: Jackson Allen
Guitar: Kevin Oliver
Drums: Tony McClung
Percussion: Jamey Haddad

NO GOODBYES: REPRISE

(Clarence Taylor, MD)

Produced and Arranged by Doc City
Vocal Arrangement by Doc City
Lead and background vocals: Reggie Kelley
Vocorder vocals: Doc City
Keyboards and Moog: Steve Cox
Keyboards: Doc City
Guitar: Bob Ferrazza
Guitar: Jackson Allen
Drums: Tony McClung
Percussion: Bill Ransom

My sincere thanks to all the musicians on this album.

Phillip Jones II, an enormous multi-instrument talent who was such an essential part of this album from the very beginning. You seem to be able to read and interpret my musical soul. Thank you for your friendship and your immeasurable contributions.

Sean Jones, your support and incredible musicianship truly helped this album project soar to greater heights. I offer my sincere gratitude for this.

Lafayette Carthon, a highly esteemed musician, collaborator, pastor and spiritual leader. Our collaboration was truly a joy and inspiration.

To the amazing vocalists who added so much to this project, my sincere gratitude and thanks:

Tina Farmer, you are a truly blessed and gifted singer. Collaborating with you was a real pleasure.

Reggie Kelly, you are a wonderful spirit, soulmate and incredible vocalist. Our time together was a truly enjoyable experience.

Evelyn Wright, someone with a sultry, refined jazz voice and beautiful spirit to match. Thanks for your friendship.

Orlando Watson, your creative rap truly made Sweetest Taboo special, many thanks.

Additional musicians:

Steve Cox, a dear friend, you always come through in adding that something special to my music. Thanks for the fine artistry you always bring.

Steven Mackey, a new friend and totally incredible bassist, what a powerful addition you were to the project.

Jackson Allen, what a beautiful guitar flavor you added to the music. Thanks so much.

Alex Brown, Thanks for being a great collaborator and for your amazing string orchestrations

Tony McClung, your musicianship is invaluable. Thanks for holding the beat.

Kevin Oliver, what soulful spirit you brought.

Jamey Haddad, your artistry, wisdom and support meant so much.

To all the other tremendous musicians and artists who played on this record, my sincere thanks for your excellent artistry.

Thanks to Narada Michael Walden and the entire staff at the wonderful Tarpan Studios, San Rafael, CA.

A very special thanks to David Frazer for your masterful engineering, kind and thoughtful collaboration and friendship. Also a special thanks to Jim Reitzel and Harry Sharpe for your tremendous contributions.

To all my medical peers:

Keep your head up. There is no more honorable or noble profession than caring for the lives of others.

This album is dedicated to my dear and cherished Taylor family.

I always tell people, I am so blessed because I won the family lottery. You are the most loving, caring, giving, compassionate and understanding people I know. My six siblings Joseph, Johnnie, Esther, Janis, Connie and Virginia, my sisters-in-law Gerry and Myrna, and brother-in-law, Percy, nieces, nephews, great-nieces and great-nephews, aunts and cousins all know how much love I have for them.

To my Cleveland family away from home

Tony, Joe, Kenny, Daris, Amanda, Jim, Paul, Max, Daniel, Leslie, Frank, Clifflie, Dave, Jeff and so many other friends, thanks for all your support.

To my wonderful partner Lisa-Jean Sylvia and her son Xavier:

thanks so much for vastly enriching my life. Love you both.

A special thought of love to my dear mother, Mattie Naomi Taylor and niece Kimberly Michelle Whitehead who have journeyed to the other side.

We are all children of the almighty. Whatever you chose to call Him, Her or It is alright with me.

You Can Never Be Too Kind or Too Generous.

“What lies behind us and what lies before us are tiny matters compared to what lies within us.”

Ralph Waldo Emerson

May Love, Peace and Harmony Always be Yours, Clarence Taylor, MD FACP (aka Doc City)

All songs Recorded and Edited by: Doc City at Doc City Studios

Editing engineer: Harry Sharpe, Nashville, Tennessee

Editing engineer: Jim Reitzel, Tarpan Studios, San Rafael, CA

Mixing engineer: David Frazer, Tarpan Studios, San Rafael, CA

Drums for tracks: 1,2,4,7 recorded by Joe Viers, SonicLounge Studio, Grove City, Ohio

Percussions recorded/mixed track 11 by Michael Seifert, Suma Studio, Painsville, Ohio

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