



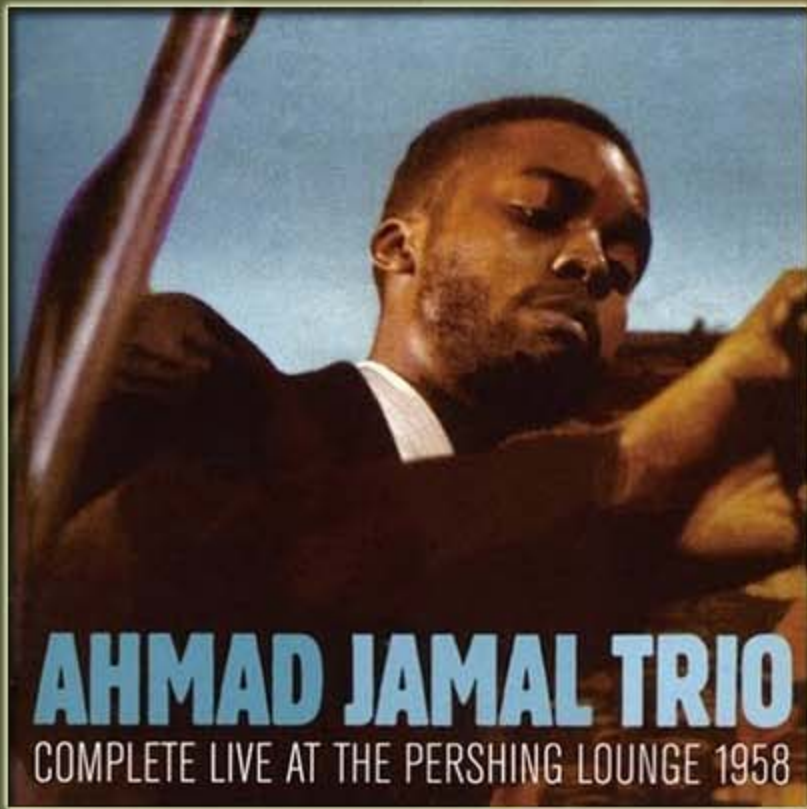
Aliyah Rabia
(Dakota Staton)



Hajj Rashid
(Lynn Hope)



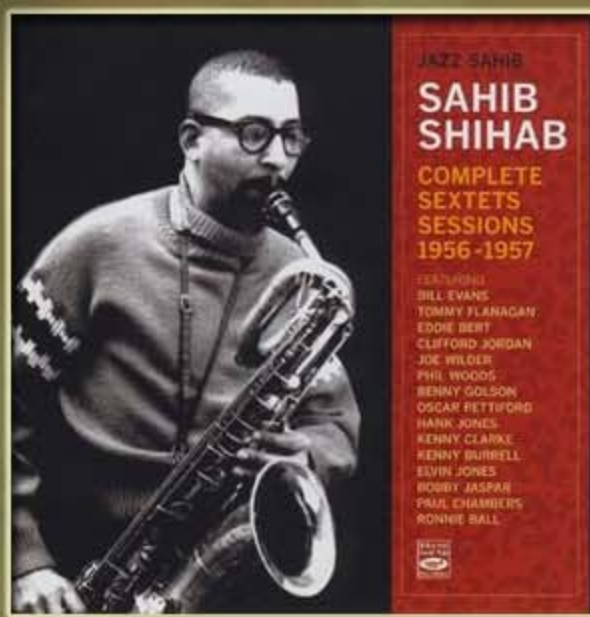
Abdullah Ibn Buhaina
(Art Blakey)



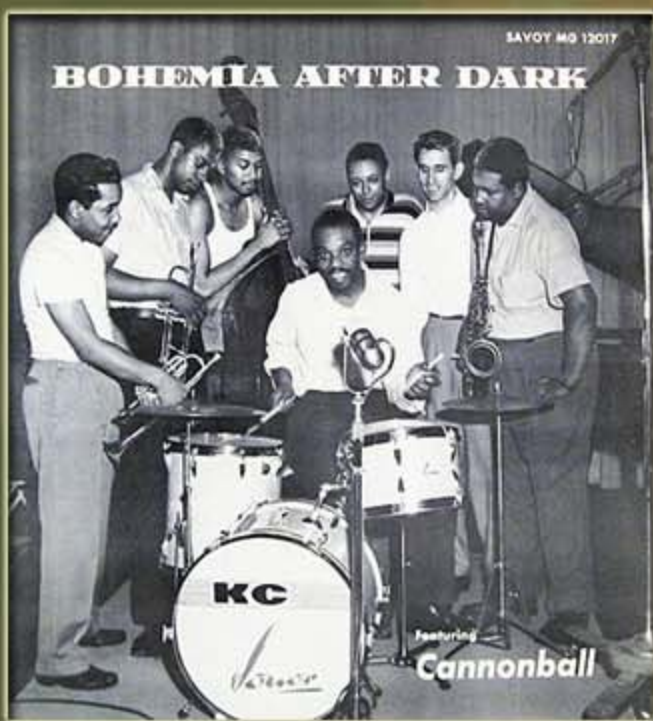
Ahmad Jamal
(Frederick Russell Jones)



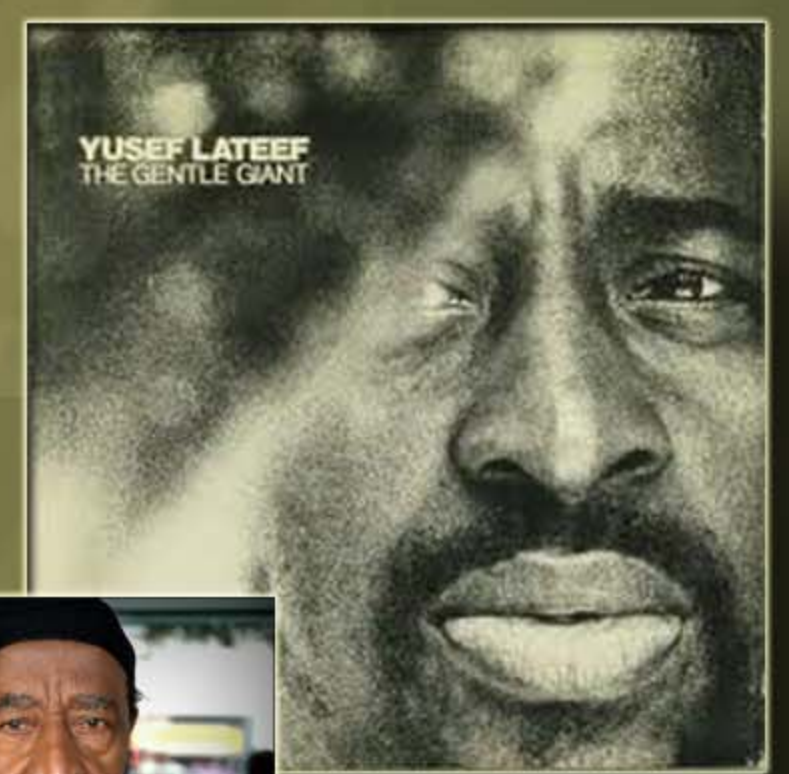
Suleiman Saud
(McCoy Tyner)



Sihab Shihab
(Edmond Gregory)



Liaquat Ali Salaam
(Kenny Clarke)



Yusef Lateef
(Bill Evans)

"My embrace of Islam came about in 1946 while I was working with the Wally Hayes Band in a club on the west side of Chicago. One night a trumpet player named Talib Dawud sat-in with us. He told me that he was an itinerant musician and that he was practicing Islam as a member of the Ahmadiyya Movement...To complement my reading, from time to time I visited the Ahmadiyya Mosque in Chicago...After I left Chicago with Gillespie, the headquarters for the religion was in New York, and I continued to attend the meetings...At this time the meetings were at Abdullah Ibn Buhaina's house; he was formerly Art Blakey...For nearly one year I studied the religion and finally decided to embrace it..." - *Gentle Giant, the Autobiography of Yusef Lateef*

Amina McCloud observes, "Ahmadiyya converts to Islam drew heavily from jazz musicians and created a distinctly Islamic culture that was highly visible in African American urban centers between 1917 and 1960...these musicians were major propagators of Islam in the world of jazz even though the subject of music was often a source of debate with the subcontinent Ahmadis. Some even developed a distinct jargon—a unique blend of bebop and Arabic." - *African American Islam*

"...Gillespie's big band was a training ground for many of the great names in modern jazz...Curiously, it also proved to be fertile soil for Islamic dawa. In Philadelphia, Rainey met Sheik Nasir Ahmad. He soon converted to Islam, taking the name Talib Dawud. The

band's young tenor saxophonist, Bill Evans, followed him, taking the name Yusef Lateef, as did Lynn Hope, who became Hajj Rashid after making pilgrimage to Mecca in 1958. The drummer, Kenny Clarke, changed his name to Liaquat Ali Salaam and Oliver Mesheux became Mustafa Dalil." - *Black Pilgrimage to Islam, Robert Danin*

"Islam was a force which directly opposed the deterioration of the mind and body through either spiritual or physical deterrents. Among musicians the religion began to grow when Art Blakey, Talib Daoud, Yusef Lateef, Ahmad Jamal, Sahib shihab and other musicians raised money to bring Moslem teachers of the Ahmadiyya movement from Pakistan to the United States..." - *Coltrane: A Biography, C. O. Simpkins*

AFRICAN AMERICAN JOURNEY TO ISLAM

... and they prayed too.



AHMADIYYA
MUSLIM COMMUNITY

United States of America

15000 Good Hope Rd. Silver Spring, MD 20905
Tel: 800.949.4752 (800-Why-Islam)
info@muslimsforpeace.org
www.MuslimsForPeace.org