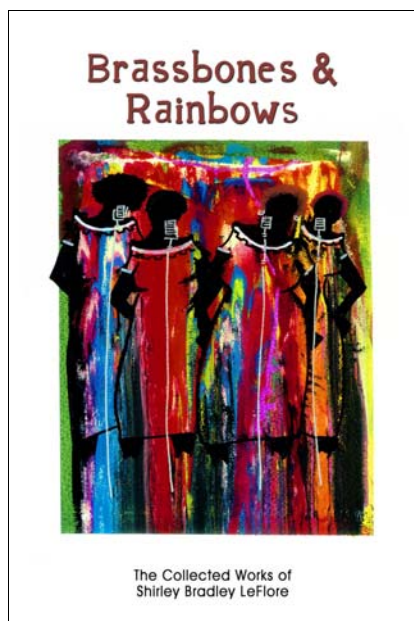


Brassbones & Rainbows

The Collected Works of Shirley Bradley LeFlore



Shirley Bradley LeFlore



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BRASSBONES & RAINBOWS is the debut poetry collection of Shirley Bradley LeFlore, an oral poet and performance artist from St. Louis, Missouri who has been on the scene for over five decades. While LeFlore tackles social, political and cultural issues with a profound love for humanity, she also provides insight into self-identity, inner-strength, beauty and faith. A literary griot, LeFlore shares the fabric of verse through jazz, blues and gospel music. Blending realism with lyricism that is interspersed with humor, these short and accessible verses flow in an easy going, smooth and soothing Southern American dialect mixed with African American Vernacular English — its intensity changing from poem to poem — with words serving as musical notes. BRASSBONES & RAINBOWS is a stunning testament to Shirley Bradley LeFlore, a story singer whose words will certainly roll off your tongue.

"Shirley LeFlore is an original. Her collaborations with musicians, dancers & artists is obvious – she is as much a musician as a poet – improvising/using melody, harmony & rhythm in her writing. Some of the images she conjures / go thru you/hip & insightful. *Brassbones & Rainbows* is a powerful work!"

— Oliver Lake
Musician and Poet

"You can't be jivin when her voice be horn." Shirley Bradley LeFlore's poems refine our world. Her voice is bold, vivid, brave, thick with heart and history. These poems snatch the wind from b'tween the legs of ancestors, and sing, sing her beautiful deepthroat brassband into our skins. LeFlore is a river woman mending our pain, renewing our spirits. Listen! She be whistling griot songs from the Gullah of her drum."

— Cheryl Boyce Taylor
Poet/Curator Calypso Muse Reading Series

"Shirley LeFlore has long been regarded as a great performance poet and served her community, as few poets do, as unofficial spiritual minister, presiding at weddings, funerals, and other significant life events. Here in her first full collection, essential poems to turn to & return to like valued friends. A book to be celebrated and treasured."

— Michael Castro
Poet and Arts Activist

"My closest literary colleague among a worthy group of writers with whom I have worked with for decades, Shirley Bradley LeFlore personifies her unique expressions of black feminine experience as she gets "my bread buttered on both sides" one way or another."

J.D. Parran, Multi-woodwind improviser, composer and educator

About the Author

SHIRLEY BRADLEY LEFLORE is an oral poet/performance artist and retired adjunct professor of women's and ethnic literature. She has taught at various colleges and universities throughout the country, has read and performed her work on stage, television and radio, and has published in numerous anthologies and magazines. BRASSBONES & RAINBOWS is LeFlore's debut poetry collection.

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