



EDDIE HENDERSON, M.D.

Edward Jackson (legally adopted by his stepfather and given the name Henderson) was born October 26 1940, in New York City with an imposing show business heritage. His father sang with Billie Williams and The Charioteers and his mother was one of the dancers at the original Cotton Club. She and her twin sister were frequently featured with Bill “Bojangles” Robinson and the Nicholas Brothers; her roommates at that time included Billie Holiday and Lena Horne.

An indication of the celebrity surroundings

in which he grew up is the fact that his first trumpet lesson, at age nine, was with Louis Armstrong. After the death of his father, Henderson’s mother married a doctor in San Francisco, where the family settled in 1954. He studied trumpet and music theory at the San Francisco Conservatory of Music. Following three years of military service in the United States Air Force, Henderson earned a bachelor’s degree in zoology from the University of California at Berkeley and his M.D. from Howard University in 1968. Concurrent with his endeavors in the medical field, Dr. Henderson continued his musical pursuits establishing himself as one of the leading soloists in groups led by such legends as Joe Henderson, Philly Joe Jones, Pharaoh Sanders, and Art Blakey. He recently reunited with Herbie Hancock for recordings and tours. His discography includes more than fifty recordings on some of the major jazz labels, including fifteen albums as leader. Long admired for his enormous repertoire of innovative nuance, he is also able to convey mystery while still throwing punches with his horn. Writer Chip Stern best summarizes Eddie Henderson’s greatness, “A ravishing sound, a level of expression forged from contrasting degrees of darkness and light, tender reticence and bodacious exultation. In his hands, the trumpet is a storytelling instrument of tremendous beauty and graceful mastery.” Henderson’s high energy and positive spirit are infectious, not just as a musician, but as a man.