



Descriptions of Sound

Ashon T. Crawley's *HOMEGOING* (2023)
Paul Ramírez Jonas's *Let Freedom Ring* (2023)

Ashon T. Crawley, *HOMEGOING* (2023)

Throughout the album, Crawley recites a series of names, most of which are from *Sojourner: Black Gay Voices in the Age of AIDS*. We felt it important to include the full list here in its entirety.

Charles	Cecil	Mert
Jasper	John	Craig
Dennis	Stenson	BJ
Kevin	Michael	Rotimi
Garfield	Max	Rory
Dereck	Atton	Derek
Reggie	Ronnie	William
Michael	Keith	Jimmy
Redvers	Eric	Charles
JeanMarie	David	Riva
Sam	Steven	Devon
Sylvester	Geoffery	Rafi
Frederick	Jose Michael	Michael
Aaron	Gene	Teddy
Calu	Ronnie	Fred
Mel	Jerry	Lloyd
Lawrence	Jim	Ray
Ernesto	Jay	Jeff
Kenneth	Carlton	Harvey
Philip	Kevin	Howard
Sam	Joseph	William
Marc-Steven	Dick	Carl
Colin	David	James
Max	Donald	Daryl
Carlos	Guillermo	Anton
Bob	John	Arturo
Jose	Joseph	Jay
James	Rod	Don
Curtis	Morris	Doglas
Melvin	Christian	Rodney
Arnell	Jameel	James
Ron	James	Anthony
Richard	Mijo	Bruce
Andrew	Donald Walter	Michael
Derrick	Lester Howard	Patrick
Randolph	Haffiz	Diego
Conrad	Ben	Darryl
Willi	William Wesley	Allan

Michael
Ronald
Jonathan
Irvine
Ray Jason
Ray
Adolphus
Arthur
Tyrone
Davis
Daryl
David
Donald
Bruce
Gladstone
Gary
George
Ian
Allan
William
Reginald
Thomas
Geoffrey
Donald
Anthony
Carlton
Simon
Tony
Lenard
Owen
Chris Adam
Marvin
Milton
Brian Matthew
Jeffrey Thomas
Lyndon Elton
James
Henry Darnell
Joseph James
Emory
Amanai
Alvin
Ronald
Alton Jerome

George Roddy
Lawrence Albert
Theodore
Ronald
Melvin Ronald
Lennox Lenny
Martin Leo
Alexander
Rick
Grafton
Donald Edward
Roosevelt AJ
Melvin
Robert Robaire
Kenneth
Sandy
Jason
Tommie
Michael William
David
Mack
Michael Alan
Fred
Lyle Edmon
Booker Tyrone
Donald Ray
Cecil
Charles Chaz
James
David
Darnell Wesley
Reginald Jay
Gary Alan
Stephen Michael
Darryl Edward
Robert
Fredric
Philip
Samuel Ray
Emile
Lee
Alan
Orteez
Kuji

Alan Jerome
Eric Ric
James
Dale
Phillip
Jeffrey Thomas
Charles Edwin
Ellis
Henry Lewis
Dwayne
Kevin
Gilbert
Michael
Paul
Russell
Charles Michael
Larry
Federick
James Leroy
Benjamin Schubert
David Warren
Henry Franklin
Joseph
Albert Terrelle
Alfonso Julius
Howard
Luis Roberto
William Bill
Anthony
Pugh
Fredy
Jeffrey
John Edward
Clarence Thomas
Milton
Eric Don
Gwen
Jesse Jay
Richard
Tim
Michael Christopher
Gordon Tyrone
Cleveland
Tony

Ernest	Roger	Madame Edna
Dwight	Dondald Ray	Ian
John	Gegory Delane	Jason
Henry	Stephen	Mark Anthony
Martial	William Clifford Pete	Micael Alan
Kenneth	William	James
Ernest	Claudia	Reginald Jay
Jeffrey	James Tyrone	Walter Rico
Freeman	Michael Craig	Ray
Kelsey	Eddie Africa	Lede
Raymond	Bruce	William
Rafael	Howard	Larry
Shane	Westley	David Dawud
Edward	Stephen Anthony	Richard
Curtis	Bobby	Michael
Reinaldo	Franklyn	Louis Stormy
Clarence Edward	Michael Louis	O'landa
Jerome Edward	Ivory	John
Roger Keith	David	Walter
Leon	Patrick	

Track #1: Procession

From the silence, a man's voice whispers: Michael.

A soft note builds, then merges with others with others. Out of rich layers of meditative resonance, the whispers continue. (John, Charles, Ricky...), The names echo and reverberate, the whisperer's speed becoming faster as he recites (Bob, Jose, Patrick...).

The blend of music feels dissonant but warm, building in volume and complexity. The reverberations ebb and flow. Layers of long chords evoke a profound sacredness as the names continue (Randal, Ronald, Jonathan, Philip, Conrad, Seesel, Keith, Ellis...).

The names continue throughout, some easier to make out than others, but all pronounced with exacting care by the whisperer, evoking the preciousness of the individuals who carried these names.

Track #2: Go On Beyond Glory

The gospel song commences with a powerful burst of organ chords, resonating with soul-stirring resonance. Accompanied by metallic rolls on cymbals, the chords, rich in depth and tonality, evoke a sense of reverence and spiritual awakening.

The chorus of male and female voices sings in precise harmony, underscored by the gentle shifts of the organ, punctuated with drums and the brightness of cymbals:

May our hearts be tangled with your hearts
May your tomorrows be sweet
Fly on from this place so you finally may
Go on beyond glory, go on beyond glory

Some glad morning, fly away
To a land bright and fair, fly away
Fly on from this place, so you finally may
Go on beyond glory, go on beyond glory

Fly away, fly away
Go on beyond glory, go on beyond glory

Track #3: It's Time to Rest

Slow, smooth organ chords open the song.

The chorus sings, gently at first, building in intensity and becoming increasingly emphatic as the song progresses. The organ music follows suit, with gentle drum and cymbal beats marking both the time and the shifts as the music becomes increasingly emphatic.

Go, it's time to rest
Go, it's time to rest

Go live in the along
There you'll have new song
Safety from all harm oh –
You can rest at last

Go, go

We want to thank you
For all your offerings but
Go, go, go

We want to thank you
For all your offerings but
Rest, rest, rest

Track #4: We Are Your Family Now

Cheerful organ music plays, accompanied by an upbeat rhythm on a drum kit. A chorus of male and female voices sings:

We will hold your hand
We will help you to stand – now –
When you were here some refused
To care and to love and to tend to you – but –
We are your family now – oh –
We are your family now

We're your family (4x) – oh –

We're your family
Not one that is imposed
But one through choice composed

Family –
We want to be there for you
Because we care for you

Family –
We hope it's not too late
No more time to hesitate

Family –
The gift we now can give
Is a different way to live – oh –

We are your family
And we love, and we care
And sing for you

Track #5: Peace Be Unto You

Slow, high notes resound from the organ, transitioning into a soft, low melody, sung slowly and quietly by the choir.

Peace
Be unto you
This is our offering

The melody swells, and the chorus splits into different parts, overlapping and layering the lyrics before coming back together.

Calm for your soul
Trust you can go

Peace

May this prayer be accepted
Amen

Amen, Amen

Track #6: Benediction

Soft ambient organ music ebbs and flows in the background, gentle and prayerful. Crawley waxes lyrical about spacetime and James Baldwin, about sonic possibility and moments of mourning, about the power of “otherwise” and love and joy. Lyrics rush past in a stream of poetry and profundity, ushering us into a world—or worlds—of gentleness and sorrow and hope.

Paul Ramírez Jonas, *Let Freedom Ring* (2023)

A carillon of thirty-two bells peals to the tune of “My Country Tis of Thee,” with visitors playing the final resounding note on the large bell at the base.