

ANTHEM FOR THE ELDERS

KENNY RITTENHOUSE QUINTET

LABEL

Kaela Records

RELEASED

June 12, 2026

GENRE

Straight-Ahead Jazz

BOOKING

kennyrittenhouse@gmail.com

01 BIOGRAPHY

Kenny Rittenhouse is a trumpeter and fixture of the Washington, D.C. jazz community, praised for a bright, clean tone and lyrical phrasing that draws comparisons to Freddie Hubbard. *Anthem for the Elders*, released June 12, 2026 on Kaela Records, is his third album as a leader, following *The Francis Suite* (2006) and *New York Suite* (2013).

Rittenhouse has called Washington, D.C. home for 36 years, ever since joining the U.S. Army Blues — the premier big band of the entire United States Army — in 1990, where he spent 30 years as a full-time staff musician. He remains an active trumpeter with the Smithsonian Jazz Masterworks Orchestra, performing on international tours alongside artists including Hubert Laws and Kurt Elling. He is also a member of the Strathmore Jazz Orchestra and the DC All-Stars Big Band, and currently teaches trumpet at American University.

He is also director of the Bethesda Blues & Jazz Youth Orchestra, a role he took on in 2019 following the passing of founding leader Fred Foss, and a 2025–26 DC Commission on the Arts and Humanities Fellow — a grant that helped fund the recording of *Anthem for the Elders*.



Photo: Herman Burney / www.hermanburney.com
high-res version available on request

02 PRESS

"...some of the heartiest, groovingest, straight-ahead jazz you can ever get your ears on."

— MICHAEL J. WEST, WASHINGTON CITY PAPER, JUNE 18, 2026

The feature also praises Rittenhouse's tone as the cleanest and brightest the writer has heard on trumpet, describing his playing as carrying lyrical swagger with high-speed technical command reminiscent of Freddie Hubbard, on a record it calls earthy and soulful.

03 THE ALBUM

The band weaves together stories of community, revolution, and remembrance, celebrating the vitality, struggle, and spirit of the Black experience — paying tribute to the elders who paved the way and the cultural traditions that shaped generations.

01 GOOD EVENING MR. BROWN

A nod to Omrao Brown, the D.C. club owner and producer whose room at Bohemian Caverns created a true home for the city's music and musicians.

02 SHAFT VS. SUPER FLY

Three funky 1970s grooves imagine Shaft and Super Fly not as rivals but as different faces of the same Black heroic struggle.

03 GEECHEE LAND!

A tribute to the Gullah Geechee people of the Sea Islands — their African-rooted traditions and ongoing fight to protect their land and culture.

04 ANTHEM FOR THE ELDERS

A salute to elders lost in recent years — Ellis Marsalis, Wayne Shorter, Wallace Roney, Chick Corea, Pharoah Sanders, and DC-area musicians Howard “Kingfish” Franklin, Delores King, and Carl Grubbs.

05 TAMIR

Written after the killing of 12-year-old Tamir Rice by police, and what that moment meant for a father raising a Black son.

06 ASSATA

A tribute to the Black women who've stood on the front lines of our struggle for justice — this is not a polite blues.

07 BALTIMORE

A tribute to mentor and friend Tom Williams, the beloved Baltimore trumpeter and educator who passed in 2023.

08 BACK IN THE DAY

A reflection on the old neighborhood, friendships, and the traditions that shaped who we are as a community.

Full track-by-track liner notes and complete credits: kennyrittenhouse.com — Digital Booklet (PDF)

04 PERSONNEL

KENNY RITTENHOUSE TRUMPET, LEADER	TIM GREEN ALTO SAXOPHONE	ALLYN JOHNSON PIANO	KRIS FUNN BASS	CARROLL “CV” DASHIELL III DRUMS
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05 LISTEN & CONTACT

- [Bandcamp](#)
- [Spotify](#)
- [Apple Music](#)
- [Amazon Music](#)
- [Tidal](#)
- [Deezer](#)
- [Pandora](#)

BOOKING & PRESS

Kenny Rittenhouse — kennyrittenhouse@gmail.com

CREDITS

Recorded March 5, 2026 · Recording/Mix/Master: Jeff Gruber (bluehouseproductions.com)
Compositions: Kenny Rittenhouse (ASCAP) · Photography: Herman Burney (hermanburney.com)
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