

A close-up, black and white portrait of Maurice Johnson, a man with a slight smile, wearing a dark suit jacket, a white dress shirt, and a light-colored, patterned tie. The background is a plain, light gray.

DRAGONFLY SUMMERS

A DREAM BEFORE
TOMORROW



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MAURICE JOHNSON

AUTHOR MEDIA KIT

AUTHOR BIO



Maurice has been referred to by many as a renaissance man due to his varied interests skills and accomplishments. His chronology of personal milestones are as follows:

PROFESSIONAL JAZZ GUITARIST – Milwaukee born, Maurice started his career as a professional jazz guitarist and band leader in 1985 shortly after forming the Oklahoma City based, “After Five” band.

After quickly gaining popularity, After Five began sharing the stage with major recording artists, including George Benson, George Howard, Norman Brown, Nancy Wilson, Al Green, Stanley Turrentine, Little Melton, Mary Wright, Ronny Laws, Jennifer Holiday, Freddy Jackson, Larry Coryell, Barney Kessel and many others.

D’LECO GUITARS CO-FOUNDER – As the early 90’s unfolded, Maurice found himself at the helm of a unique industry as co-founder of D’Leco, *pronounced* (DEE LEE CO) Acoustic Instruments with luthier / partner James W. Dale. Together, they built and marketed handcrafted arch-top guitars. D’Leco designed and licensed two exclusive lines of Charlie Christian guitar models to American manufacturer, Gibson Guitars and Samick Musical Instruments in Korea. In 1996 D’Leco built a guitar for the famous *Blue Guitar Collection*, once on display at the Smithsonian Institute, soon becoming the subject of trade books and magazines.

PUBLISHED AUTHOR – Between 1996 and 2003 Maurice authored three nationally published music related books with Mel Bay Publishing, Mix Books and Artist Pro Press. Titles include, *The New Working Musician’s One Year Organizer*; *Build and Manage Your Music Career* and *Gigorama*. He would go on to self-publish several other books, as well as nationally published articles in *Realtor Magazine* and *Musician Magazine*.

SOFTWARE DEVELOPER – During the late 90s, Maurice developed a popular Windows based business management software for working musicians, called *Gigorama*.

INDEPENDENT RECORDING ARTIST – In 2010 Maurice released his debut CD as an independent artist titled “TONIGHT” under his own record label called Jazz Drops Records. In 2014 he released his second independent CD titled “PEACE, LOVE & JAZZ”

PUBLISHING CONSULTING and BOOK DESIGN – In 2018 Maurice founded SelfPublishMe, pre-publishing service for first-time and independent authors.

HISTORY IS THE ROADMAP THAT TELLS THE STORY OF WHERE WE ONCE TRAVELED.

When we were children, all the things our guardians threw away were perceived as nothing more than trash. How I wish that I could rummage through the discarded remains of my past so I can piece it all together again. —Maurice Johnson

ABOUT THE BOOK

Dragonfly Summers, A Dream Before Tomorrow is a historical narrative of childhood summers that spans from Milwaukee Wisconsin's West Vliet Street, to the red clay dirt roads of El Reno Oklahoma. Maurice Johnson chronicles stories of ancestry, kinship and coming of age, documenting the transformative years and unanswered questions of youth, growing up as young *Timmy Johnson*, throughout the 1960s and 70s. Both dramatic and heartwarming, the summer of 1964 was a pivotal point that changed life forever.





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A LIFE JOURNEY THROUGH THE EYES OF YOUNG TIMMY JOHNSON

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REVIEWS

"Such an amazing read, so full of wonderful research."

—**Vicki Proctor**, President of Canadian County Historical Society Museum

"A statement not made lightly: Maurice Johnson may be the most positive-minded person I know. And certainly one of the finest artists. Look for the genesis of the two and you come up with Maurice's epic, *Dragonfly Summers, A Dream Before Tomorrow*. An aching, meaningful recounting of life that inspires us to do the same."

—**Al Mertens**, Screenwriter/Director



ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Milwaukee born Maurice Johnson spent his prominent childhood years growing up in El Reno, Oklahoma. A Jazz guitarist, author, entrepreneur, publishing consultant and motivator, Maurice Johnson is a man of many talents and accomplishments. He enjoys exploring his ancestry and encouraging others to tell their life story.

Title: Dragonfly Summers: A Dream Before Tomorrow

Author: Maurice Johnson

Genre: African American / Genealogical / Autobiographical

ISBN: 979-8-9860154-0-8

Publication Date: June 21, 2022

Paperback: 330 Pages

Trim Size: 5.5" x 8.5"

Price: \$19.99

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NORTH
ELLISON
AVENUE
P R E S S

BOOK EXCERPT

Our clothes were packed, which collectively were few, represented by a hodgepodge of mismatched luggage, tote bags and what little we could carry onboard. As evening came, the overall mood throughout the house grew pensive, and our words were few. Given the finality and irreversible reality of our current circumstances, we, the children of Mary Johnson were now the custodians of distant thoughts and uncertain days, but tomorrow, in less than twenty-four hours we'll be on a train bound for Oklahoma. Before that could happen, we'd spend a final restless night in the darkened silenced, now undesignated rooms of what we once knew as home. Labored and intense, sleep didn't come easy as the minutes crept by. One and then another, sixty seconds



more and another began, over and over and over again, until the night surrendered to the dawn. Wakened to a gentle gift from nature, my senses took in the melodies of near and far reciprocating bird songs as I lay, starrng deep into the void faint shadows of the muted, white ceiling. The morning light would finally make its way through every window of the house, washing over the pale pink walls with a warm but cheerless glow this time. Early morning light was my favorite light, and my favorite time of day, but today it was different. Today would be the last time I'd bear witness to the welcoming sun, at least within these walls. On this day our tenure would end, and soon we'd be plucked from the tapestry of community and life on Vliet street.

Jeremiah arrived early that morning dressed in a brown suit and tie with a button-down collar and tan wingtip shoes. Now that it was daylight, time seemed to pass quickly. Everything was set into motion with no option to change course. Somewhere between a bowl of cereal and a glass of orange juice a cab pulled up out front and gave two quick but thoughtful honks, and waited. It would be fair to say it was a moment we'd all share a case of group-anxiety, perhaps even overcome by a brief and panicky, pit of your stomach sense of hesitance. But there we were, with no other choice but to leave the kitchen table, gather up our things and wander toward the front door. Jeremiah grabbed up a few of our bags and filed out the door behind us.

Outside felt unpredictably odd this time, standing there on the front porch checking our things and making sure the door was shut and locked for the very last time.

HERE'S WHAT READERS SAY!

"Such an amazing read, so full of wonderful research. Great read for learning more about family history."

—Vicki Proctor,

President of Canadian County Historical Society Museum

"Maurice Johnson drew me right in from the moment he takes a good, hard look at his birth certificate and begins to recall in detail the summer of 1964, the most impactful time of his life. Spanning from past generations that include enslavement and family tragedies to his joy and success as a present-day musician and composer, the writing style wraps the reader in a sense-drenched blanket and takes them on a journey that is beautiful, harsh, honest and unforgiving."

—Debbie Burke,

Jazz Author

*"A statement not made lightly: Maurice Johnson may be the most positive-minded person I know. And certainly one of the finest artists. Look for the genesis of the two and you come up with Maurice's epic, *Dragonfly Summers, A Dream Before Tomorrow*. An aching, meaningful recounting of life that inspires us to do the same."*

—Al Mertens,

Screenwriter/Director

INTERVIEW QUESTIONS

1. What do you want readers to take away from this book?
2. What's the meaning behind the title?
3. What Inspired you to write this book?
4. How long did it take you to write this book?
5. What was the least favorite part of publishing your book?
6. What do you like to do when you're not writing?
7. Which elements of writing are the most important for you?
8. What inspires your cover designs?
9. Can you share a bit about your next book?
10. What helps you focus while writing?
11. What motivated you to become a writer?
12. When was your first book published?
13. Who are you when you're not writing?
14. Do you prefer, using a computer or writing with a pen? Why?
15. Do you find writing fascinating, exhausted, or both?
16. Do you think you will write another book?
17. What takes most of your effort when writing?
18. Which do you prefer, writing when you're alone or in public? Why?
19. What time of the day do you write the most?





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