

SEIZE THE TIME

Words and Music by ELAINE BROWN
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 Hollywood, Cal.

Bright Soul Beat

Bm Bm/A Bm6 Bm/F# Em Bm Bm/A Bm6/G#

You tell me that the sun belongs- to you and should surround you But when I

Bm Bm/A Bm6/G# Bm/F# Em Bm Bm/A Bm6/G# Em

turn to look- I see they've snatched the sun from all a- round you — Why you hardly seem to

F# Bm Em Bm Em

want what's yours You hard-ly seem to care If you love the sun It's where you've come from Then

Bm Em Bm Em Bm Em Bm Em EMaj: Bm F#1 Bm

you had better dare To Seize the Time- The Time is Now- Oh, Seize the Time and you know how.—

- I You tell me that the sun belongs To you and should surround you. But, when I turn to look I see they've snatched The sun from all around you. Why you hardly seem To want what's yours You hardly seem to care. If you love the sun, It's where you've come from Then you had better dare To Seize The Time The time is now Oh, Seize The Time And you know how.
- II You tell me that the soul is real And your soul must survive. Yet, I see they've taken liberties With your souls and your lives. Don't tell me that you lack concern For all that you must be, 'Cause I know you know you must not be turned And I know that you can see To Seize The Time The time is now Oh, Seize The Time And you know how.
- III You worry about liberty Because you've been denied. Well, I think that you're mistaken Or then, you must have lied. 'Cause you do not act like those who care You've never even fought For the liberty you claim to lack Or have you never thought To Seize The Time The time is now Oh, Seize The Time And you know how.

wants to tell it straight, to wake up her own Black people - and all people - to the power they have, and to exercise it. But with this blunt introduction to the songs and lyrics of Elaine Brown, which demand conscious listening & response, let me add that she brings a depth of feeling and sensitivity along with her strong convictions that make this LP possess great human dimensions as art as well as political savvy.

Her first song sets the tone of her present feelings and involvement:

"You better dare seize the time—
 Don't tell me you lack concern.
 Seize the time, the time is now
 Oh, seize the time, and you know how!"

In another song she humanizes and glorifies the dedication of a Panther: "A man who'd die to get your freedom back." But most often she expresses admonitions to us to wake up and get with it. "Some people still say —there will be peace— just you wait and see. But that's just a yearning..." As a singer she reminds us frequently of Nina Simone, but with more clear headedness, as she builds up dramatic effects with her voice and the persistent rhythm and support of her instrumental backing. There is quite a variety on her LP, so don't feel you've heard it all, after one song. She sings of a woman's love -- for a "very black man".

"Just look at a man
 see his very Black face."
 One song addresses a child whose father has been in the struggle:
 "Poppa's come home,
 Look at him child,
 Look at his handsome face."

The song entitled, The Black Panther National Anthem seems a misnomer both in style and content. I would judge it unsuitable to serve that purpose even though it is a good song. A national anthem should, to me, be a song for group singing and it should be a collective statement—not that of an individual.

She identifies with the poor and oppressed... and sees their basic understanding of the struggle:

"Walking along a street one day...
 Take it away, take it away..."

Take it away from me...
 "Yes, it's time you know who you really are And not try to whitewash the truth You're a man you see And a man must be Whatever he'll be or he won't be free."

With such well-defined topicality in her songs it is probably no surprise that Elaine Brown has added some cogent remarks on the cover space of her LP album.

A few samplers will suffice:

"U.S. is a dog-eat-dog society (with an exploitive system). But this is not a dog-eat-dog world. That is—men are NOT innately greedy or uncooperative with each other."

"Songs like all art forms are an expression of the feelings, thoughts, desires and hopes (etc) of a people. They are no more than that. A song cannot change a situation, because a song does not live and breathe. People do. The songs make statements—people can act. They have the power. The power belongs ONLY to ALL OF US, not just some or one, but all." To all of which I say "Amen!"

Waldemar Hille



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SEIZE THE TIME

Vault Stereo 131
 All songs sung and written by Elaine Brown
 Minister of Information of The Black Panther Party, Southern California District

My information is that this record has had-- in a brief time-- a considerable commercial sale which is attributed to Elaine Brown's political status. If so, I'm all for it. Just as I believe it was (and is) important for all of us to read Eldridge Cleaver's "Soul On Ice", because it reveals the depth of human feeling and understanding in this Black man; it is important and revealing to hear the songs and singing of Elaine Brown.

No. This isn't an album of sweet, or passionately crooned love songs. Elaine Brown firmly dismisses such a package. She says:

"I used to write about flowers, butterflies and love. -- But that was bullshit." Sounds somewhat shocking, doesn't it. But certainly we can understand what she means. She

Order the LP "SEIZE THE TIME" (price \$3.50) from:
 Ministry of Information
 Box 2967 - Custom House
 San Francisco, CA 94126

