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ABOUT THE AUTHOR _____ **40**

INTRODUCTION

I remember talking to Louie at his home one day and asking if he had any hobbies outside of music. I was surprised to hear that he loved to write poetry and do pencil drawings. When I asked if he had anything I could read, he pulled out two small pamphlets he had put together called *The Poetic Thoughts and Verses of Louie Bellson, 1 and 2*. Those two pamphlets were bound with staples and wrapped with a simple cover made from construction paper.

After reading the two small books, which contained over 100 thoughts and verses, I was impressed with what he had written and suggested we do a more professional-looking edition that combined the best of both books. The first updated publication, which I also selected and edited, came out in 1986 and was primarily given as a gift to family and friends for various occasions.

It has always been my hope that this small book of poetry would be made available to a wider audience, and so I'm thankful to both Rob Wallis and Hudson Music not only for their love and support of Louie, but for their willingness to make this new edition available to the general public.

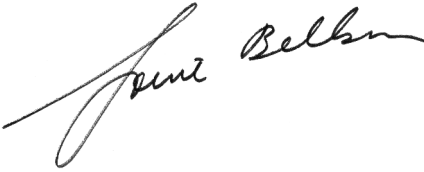
Dave Black
Los Angeles, CA, 2020

FOREWORD

This book is dedicated to my wife Javile (Pearl Bailey Bellson), who was the sole inspiration for this book.

I think I have always had a flair for poetry because to me, poetry is like writing lyrics for music. They are both full of expression, feeling, and emotion. I like to put my thoughts and expressions into words, for they are soulful and a part of my life.

The writings contained in this book are based on my actual experiences and views of life. I would love to paint and sketch someday. My poems in this book are my paintings in words.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Pearl Bellson". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned to the left of the printed name "Pearl Bellson".



" WHY CAN'T WE ?"

" IF THE SUN CAN WARM THE AIR
AND BIRDS FLY ANYWHERE -

" WHY CAN'T WE ?"

" IF THE MOON CAN KISS THE STARS
AND DREAMS CAN REACH TO MARS -

" WHY CAN'T WE ?"

I KNOW YOUR WAY IS FREE -
THE FUTURE IS TO BE -
I'M LIKE A PLAYFUL TOY -
BOUNCING TO YOU WITH JOY -

" IF THE MOUNTAINS TOUCH THE SKY
AND FEEL THE MAGIC HIGH -

" WHY CAN'T WE ?"

WHY YES!
CAN'T WE ?"

By *Louie Bellson*
10/19/91

REGENCY CRUISES

Written in 1991 during the National Drum Association Convention in Chicago, while reflecting on both the young drummers and their dreams, and his new relationship with Francine with whom he later became engaged.

The Power of Time

While we were young, the energies flowed through the excitement of the elderly.

The air was pure; anticipation reigned throughout each day. As the body stretched into the form of a huge ball rolling into oblivion, the task of survival became the prime goal. The hunter sharpened his tools, and the hunted kept running for peace.

What was wrong? What was right?

Suddenly the sky took on a grey hue and the wind gave a warning of danger.

Face up to it or fall.

You know how to smile because you have cried.

You know how to speak because you've been silent.

I don't need the power of stress to test me—

I can get along without anyone.

Leave me be.

As the tones in my head come to an easier tempo, my silent discussion has me in a fixation.

Trapped as you are, you know there is a secret passageway out.

Keep looking. Keep trying. It's there, and when you find it, you'll hold onto it like a sacred jewel.

You will speak of it with love and transfer its meaning to those you love.