

## JAZZ: HEALING

*Herald flies in.*

## HERALD

Hey look cool! I gave your friend a hot tip to a real hip place. You're in the alley of Ezra's Club—a speakeasy in the 1920s.

*You walk up on small group of musicians drinking in the alley. Maybe they play around on their instruments.*

## FRIEND

(To you)

Why you so high hat? Didn't you hear the pigeon? This is Ezra's Club.

*Ya'll are cut off by security. Yes, security in an alley.*

## INFORMAL SECURITY

What's the word?

## FRIEND

Percy's on the drums.

## INFORMAL SECURITY

Nah! That was before the cops raided us earlier. New word or you gotta go.

*You and your friend freeze. Never trust a tip from a pigeon.*

## HERALD

Hey Mac! They're good. I invited them.

## FRIEND

(To Herald)

Thank you, Herald.

(To you)

Child, they said the club wasn't segregated. I didn't know they meant it.

*Dotty begins humming.*

## MUSICIAN

When's Ezra getting here? We getting caught again if he don't get a move on.

## ANOTHER MUSICIAN

Sing that! Dotty!

*Others begin to cheer on Dotty.*

*It's church in the alley.*

*"We don't need no bar to play" "Cops ruined our set"*  
*"Dotty 'gon on and finish your song" "yeah yeah that!"*  
*"Lay it down Dotty!"*

## DOTTY

## AWAKEN

## FRIEND

(To the group)

Yeah! Cops can't stop us from a good time.

(To you)

You better chill that stiff act and clap your hands, dance, stomp, catch the holy ghost—something. Quit acting like you ain't been out before.

## DOTTY

## AWAKEN

MAMA KNOWS THE WORLD IS BURNING  
 IT CRAVES YOUR FLESH AND BONES  
 AND IF IT GRABS AHOLD OF YOUR SPIRIT  
 IT WON'T LET YOU 'LONE

SLEEPING AIN'T THE WAY TO SAVE YOUR SOUL

DOTTY

SINGERS

SO AWAKEN

RUN INTO THE FIRE

AWAKEN

SO YOU CAN FIND YOUR AIM

KNOW YOUR PATIENCE

YEAH

YOUR SPIRIT

YEAH

AND PEACE

PEACE

IT LIES IN THOSE FLAMES

*The voices lay over and under each other. This is communal healing where everyone contributes a vocal offering. You can hear your friend in your ear, pouring out every frustration, burden, and sorrow in one final note with the others.*

*This ends with Dotty humming alone.*

FRIEND

Ay look! Ezra's here!

HERALD

Oh you're gonna love Ezra! Just ask your friend carrying the booze.

END OF PLAY.