



DONNIE

Our featured artist, singer/composer, DONNIE, was born in Lexington but raised in Atlanta, Ga. He was nurtured artistically in the same musical tradition that gave rise to such singers as India Arie, Anthony David, D'Angelo and other artists often characterized as “Neo-Soul”. What has set DONNIE apart from his contemporaries is that he has embraced the politically-oriented, “consciousness-raising” side of Soul as well as its romantic element. As a result, he has often been compared to such musical visionaries as Marvin Gaye, Donny Hathaway and Stevie Wonder. Marvin Gaye is, in fact, his cousin.

His first release, the critically acclaimed album *The Colored Section*, was released in 2001 on Giant Step and later released on Motown in 2002. The Boston Globe praised it as “.....perhaps the best Soul record since Stevie Wonder’s masterpieces of the 1970’s”. His second release, *The Daily News*, released in 2007, has an even more potently political, consciousness-raising message.

DONNIE has been working as a professional artist since the age of 15. After a start in Gospel music, his travels have taken him to Europe where he sang back-up in the Pre-Olympics Festival in Barcelona, Spain and the Quincy Jones Montreux Jazz Festival in Montreux, Switzerland. He has sung background vocals for such Gospel giants as Tramaine Hawkins, the late Andrae Crouch, Shun Pace Rhodes, Yolanda Adams and many more. He has opened as a solo artist for Jody Watley, Ashford and Simpson, Al Green, Kem and Boney James to name a few.

DONNIE continues to use his gifts as a singer/composer in the pursuit of his true passion—the creation of musicals. His current project, *The American Mythology*, is an epic narrative set to music.