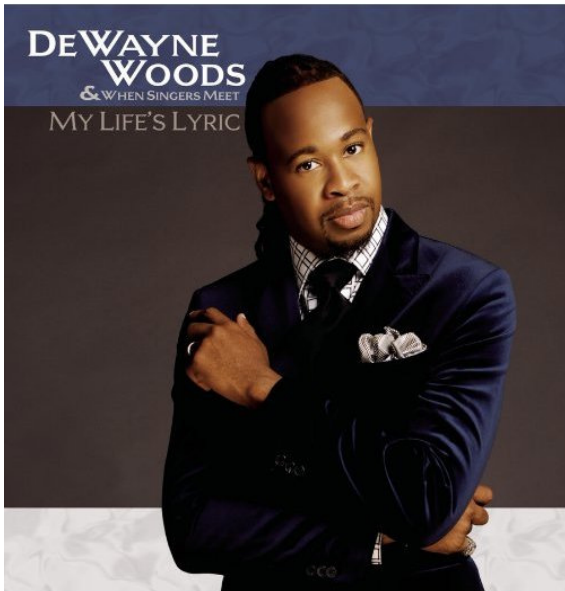


DEWAYNE WOODS

“My Life’s Lyric”



Just five years ago, few had heard the name DeWayne Woods. Now, you’d be hard-pressed to find a gospel music fan who hasn’t heard of DeWayne Woods. He moved from obscurity to notoriety on the strength of the mega-hit, “Let Go”. The incredible ballad of surrender, heard on radio stations and in choir stands all over the nation, became the biggest gospel song of the year in 2007. The tune, from his Verity Records/Quiet Water Entertainment debut entitled *Introducing DeWayne Woods & When Singers Meet*, netted Woods numerous accolades including 2008 Stellar Awards for New Artist of the Year, Male Vocalist of the Year and Urban/Inspirational Single/Performance of the Year. Songwriter P.J. Morton also received a Stellar Award that year for Song of the Year. DeWayne received a 2008 GMA Dove Award nomination as well for New Artist of the Year.

“It was very surreal,” says Woods about the song’s success. “Every artist wants people to accept them and appreciate their music. So for people take to ‘Let Go’ and to be touched by the song, it’s so humbling,” explains Woods. “People still call me ‘Mr. Let Go,’” chuckles the singer.

Since that time, he’s been riding the wave of the song and ministering all over the country. He’s continued to establish himself as a solo artist after having been in the background for years. Prior to his breakout, he backed artists like Celine Dion, Kirk Whalum, and Kurt Carr. The Kansas City, MO, native, who got his musical education at Paseo Academy of Fine and Performing Arts, has also served as vocal producer for gospel greats Karen Clark Sheard, John P. Kee, and Donald Lawrence.

His start in gospel began with a “chance” meeting with Kee and soon after, he became a member of the popular gospel ensemble, The New Life Community Choir, singing the lead on the group’s hit “Show Up”. Lawrence quickly took notice of him and he joined the Donald Lawrence & The Tri-City Singers belting out the tune “Go Get Your Life Back”. DeWayne now sings with “The Company”, Lawrence’s latest singing ensemble and DeWayne has no intention of giving that up. “I love to go out with Donald Lawrence & The Company as much as I can,” says Woods. “I still believe that it’s so important to serve and I still have a lot to learn. And Donald has poured so much into me,” states DeWayne.

He still enjoys being a backup singer and since his project’s release has been the vocal co-producer for Byron Cage’s “Live At The Apollo: The Proclamation” and “Faithful To Believe”. Also in the interim, he moved from Chicago to Atlanta and has become a part of the music ministry of Divine Faith Ministries International. Under the pastorate of Donald and Gwen Battle, he’s taken on the role of Director of Worship & Arts. He appreciates being tied to ministry musically. He says, “I love being part of the Divine Faith Church Family and it’s so important to me. As an artist, you are constantly pouring out and it’s great to be poured into. I listen closely to what my pastor preaches and teaches. I also love the music ministry because teaching is my passion; I love working and

cultivating music ministries because it allows the creative juices inside me to flow,” says DeWayne. He’s also been busy acting in a number of gospel plays featuring singers such as Peabo Bryson, Dave Hollister, Morris Day, Deniece Williams, Dottie Peoples and Cuba Gooding, Sr.

But his heart and soul have been into completing his new Verity Records/Quiet Water Entertainment release, *My Life’s Lyric*. The project’s concept centers around each song reflecting a testimony. For DeWayne, each track not only represents a different experience, a different aspect of his life, but most of all, each song expresses another trait of God’s awesome character. He says, “It’s an album full of testimonies of everything I have been through. Jeremiah 29:11 is my favorite scripture and to have that in there, to help shed light to someone else, to me, that’s what it’s all about.”

To DeWayne, this new project is more mature and sophisticated than his debut. He feels that his time in the industry has helped him grow. He even feels that the combination of songs is more eclectic than his first CD. But one thing Woods didn’t stray from was his exceptional production team. Well-known producers P.J. Morton, Daniel Weatherspoon and Aaron Lindsey all return and take their respective turns in the producer’s chair as do James Poyser and the production team of Phil and Calvin. He also brought in his group “When Singers Meet” and a small group of session singers from Chicago to round out the impressive background vocals.

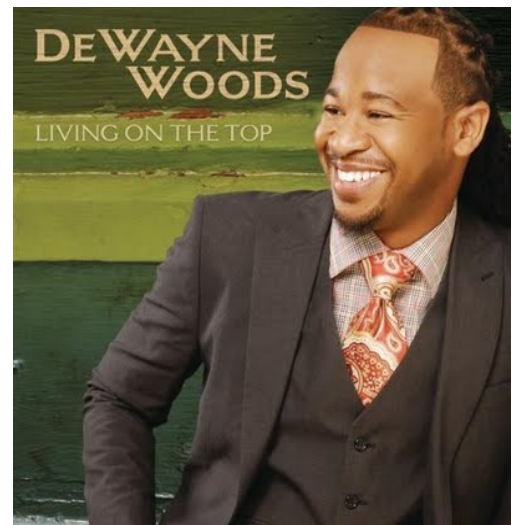
Long-time fans of gospel music will recognize the CD’s lead single, “Living On The Top”, instantly. Gospel crooner Douglas Miller made this one a hit and now DeWayne Woods’ rendition is certain to do the same. Already gaining steam at radio, the lively cut is the perfect song to set your day on the right track. Listeners will find it hard not to “defeat the devil” and “exalt God” after this one is done.

Anxiety and fears will dissipate after hearing the comforting lyrics and sweet melodies of “I Won’t Be Afraid”. DeWayne clearly has a gift of exhortation and the message in “I Won’t Be Afraid” wraps assurance tightly around the listener. Few in gospel can deliver a gospel ballad the way DeWayne can and this track is no exception.

He has a special place in his heart for this song. “‘I Won’t Be Afraid’ shows us the dynamics between fear and faith,” he shares. “We know the scripture that talks about faith being the substance of things hoped for and the evidence of things not seen, but fear is the substance of things that we do not hope for, but the evidence of things that we do see,” shares the singer. “If we understand that and know that God has taken care of everything that concerns us, we should know that we have nothing to fear.”

He may be known as a balladeer, but that doesn’t mean that he can’t get down with the best of them. On the funky “Still Here”, the singer reminds us that in spite of everything he’s been through, he’s “still here”. A sentiment we all can relate to, the track moves in high gear during the riveting vamp. The James Poyser-produced track is definitely a stand out. Many will appreciate the simplicity and power of mellow “What Kind Of Love”. It’s a sweet love song to the Lord.

Taking us back to the 60s and 70s, “Good Times” conjures up visions of James Brown’s fancy footwork as well as Florida and James Evans. DeWayne takes us to a more soulful time with fast rhythms and a smooth horn section. He even pulls out a surprising falsetto while he sings about the “good time” we can have in Christ. “God Can” is set to be one of *My Life’s Lyric*’s strongest cuts. Another P.J. Morton jewel, it’s always good to be reminded that



no matter the situation, God Can. Congregants are destined to hear this one from choir stands. It's a beautifully-penned song and DeWayne sings it to pieces. The psalmist says about this one, "If you believe in letting go and letting God, then you can only do that if you believe that God can."

"Lost", with its catchy rhythms and fun feel, finds the singer expressing his desperate need for direction from God. Woods had a ball recording the song. The engineer pressed play and he and the singers jammed! "That song was so much fun to record", says DeWayne. The song's message centers around the simple fact that without God we are truly lost. Fans of CCM (contemporary Christian music) will enjoy the sound and full orchestration of "Sovereignly Reign". Praises go up on this dynamic call-and-response track. The heavens open up at the powerful worship that flows from this amazing cut.

"It Might Be Hope" is a powerfully-executed track. Anyone who felt their inspiration slipping away prior to hearing "It Might Be Hope" should be prepared to get it back by the end of this 4-minute song. On the Sarah Groves-penned tune, DeWayne delivers a convincing performance flanked by his stunning ensemble of singers. For DeWayne, the song is the "epitome of Jeremiah 29:11: 'For I know the plans I have for you,' declares the LORD, 'plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.' If I am still alive, then there's hope for my situation," summarizes the singer.

"Positive", the CD's final cut, finds the crooner trying out his musical wings on an edgy, almost rock tune. It's an infectious song of independence from negativity and vulnerability. With each beat of the permeating percussion, listeners will find themselves getting stronger and stronger. "Positive proclaims everything you've heard on this project," shares Woods. "If you understand each song and each testimony, then you understand that you are not the same person you used to be and you are Positive that you have a new life in God."

My Life's Lyric is a perfect expression of the heart of one of gospel music's brightest stars. With a new project and more inspiration to share, DeWayne Woods is prepared to stun the gospel music industry once again. For those who loved DeWayne's debut, My Life's Lyric picks up where "Let Go" and Introducing DeWayne Woods & When Singers Meet left off. Prepare to be inspired by one of today's hottest gospel singers.