



Alvin King

Born and raised in Houston, Texas, Alvin King revealed great promise as a musician at an early age. Moving to New York in 1983, Alvin became the first African American piano player to play for the Tony Award-winning production of "CATS" at the tender age of 16-years old. After a critically acclaimed 3-year run on Broadway, he returned to Houston and shortly thereafter earned his Bachelor of Arts in Music Performance from Texas Southern University in Houston. Alvin then embarked upon an international professional career, which allowed him to span the globe with the likes of Jazz and R&B legends Ahmad Jamal, McCoy Tyner, Gerald Levert, and El Debarge.

Since the church played an integral part in his life it was only natural for Alvin to explore his deep gospel roots. His powerfully compelling methodology of playing the organ and piano set a spiritual tone for luminaries such as Rev. James Cleveland, Daryl Coley, V. Michael McKay, Erica Atkins-Campbell (Mary, Mary) and Yolanda Adams whose album, "Open My Heart" he recorded all keyboards. That project, along with recording Kirk Whalum's "Where I Come From" album, created a huge demand for Alvin as a session musician and laid a foundation for his own studio project. One of Alvin's finest inspirational performances came as Music Director of the hit play "Will a Real Man Please Stand Up?" starting Johnny Gill, Erica Atkins Campbell, Clifton Powell, and Sean Levert.

Recent years have seen Alvin headline shows at some of Houston's top jazz venues. He has performed concerts with Jeff Lorber, Waren Hill, Najee, Rachelle Ferrell, Roy Ayers, Doc Powell, David Benoit, and many more.

Alvin's debut was an EP that featured the single "Funny" a tribute to his great friend Gerald Levert. Although Alvin played this crowd favorite many times as Levert's Music Director, his single put a contemporary jazz spin on the song and gained nationwide airplay.

King's second project features the standard "Dear Old Stockholm" and his jazzy rendition of the Isley Brothers' classic "That Lady", which is gaining momentum as the first single on the recording. The album is set for a 2013 release.

The philosophy of this man and his music is as simple as it is complex. He says, "In the scope of the inception of my music, my vision is based in love and passion." He poses the question, "Why do what you do, without loving what you do? He believes that he is... part of a generation that has placed passion apart from the music. "But I believe that without passion and God – there is no music."