



Helen Marketti's Music Corner



Damon Harris

Damon Harris spent part of the early 70s as a member of one of Motown's greatest singing groups, The Temptations. Damon had auditioned to replace original member, Eddie Kendricks who also happened to be his idol. Damon sang on the group's hit, "Papa Was A Rolling Stone". He was with the group for about five years before pursuing other goals and dealing with difficult challenges along the way.



Damon Harris

Today, Damon is working on new material for an album which will be titled "Eloquent" that will have 10-12 tracks, scheduled for release later this year. He is also working on an EP, which will be titled, "iSing".

Currently, Damon has a new single out that is called, "You Are My Woman" which he describes as being the words every woman likes to hear. "Originally, I wrote the song around 2004 - 2005 and left it sit for awhile. Many of the women I have spoken with have told me that my song has the words they like to hear. It is very gratifying to an artist when they have written something that appeals to a mindset. It's important to make that connection," said Damon. "The song

was originally inspired by my mom and my daughter. My mom passed away in 2003 but I always felt her spirit with me as I was writing. It was as though she was standing over me, looking over my shoulder as she did when I would do my homework as a child. I felt the same kind of presence."

"The other part of the inspiration was being rediagnosed in 2010 with cancer. I was first diagnosed with prostate cancer in 1998. I always seemed to be encouraged by the medical staff that took care of me to acknowledge who I was to people. I like to keep the whole "Temptations" thing quiet most of the time because that was so long ago. It can be detrimental to an artist if you continue to wear your past career on your sleeve. You can get your feelings hurt very easily because the more time passes; the less people remember you. If that is how you define yourself then you are in for a big blow to your self esteem."

Damon currently lives in Baltimore, Maryland. He has toured Europe several times and has traveled the United States as a solo artist and at various times, part of The Temptations tribute groups. His illness has caused him to stay closer to home these days but he has put forth his time and energy into writing songs and being involved with other events. "Last year, the hospital staff asked me if I would like to be the Key Note speaker for "National Cancer Survivor's Day". At first, I was reluctant but eventually

decided to be the speaker because it was something different from music. I did end up singing one song, however. I chose "Go the Distance" by Michael Bolton. What is unique about that song is that it was released several months before I was diagnosed the first time. My performance really tore the house down, so to speak. Many people had tears in their eyes and that's what I like to do is touch people's emotions."

In regards to his rediagnoses, Damon said, "The cancer has spread to my vertebra. I feel it's a miracle that I'm still here. I realized God gave me this voice and I'm going to use my gift as much as I can. I have come close to being paralyzed because the tumors are on my spinal chord. I can still walk and drive. Sometimes I am reminded of my illness but other times I feel I can do anything."

Damon's single, "You Are My Woman" is available at CD Baby, Rhapsody and iTunes. "I would describe the song as "easy listening" and "adult contemporary," he said. "I'm doing it all, being a songwriter, arranger and producer. I'm not trying to compete with Usher, Beyonce or Rhianna nor do I want to. It is as much a challenge today as it was when I was younger to get your music played unless you're with a big label like Motown or something like that. As an independent artist, you want to have album sales and have things in place to be successful. My plan is to release my single, which I have then an EP and after that a complete CD. It is a blessing to still be able to do this."



The Temptations
(Damon, seated center)



The Temptations (Damon, far right)

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