

Lavenia Nesmith





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Two of the greater gifts for a vocalist is to captivate an audience and to be identified with their own sound, Lavenia is blessed with both of these qualities. Her unique soulful vocal style and sound will leave you stimulated and asking for more. I say enjoy”

Dick Smith

BIOGRAPHY



A native Washingtonian, Lavenia Nesmith has performed locally and nationally, including Blues Alley, Twins Jazz, Bohemian Caverns, LaPortas, Jazz Night at Westminster, Oakland Mills Jazz Series, Henley Park Hotel, Ritz Carlton Hotel, Mandarin Hotel, Tuskegee Airmen Gala, The Arch of The Capitol, The Hart Senate Office Building, The Library of Congress, the Gaylord Hotel at the National Harbor and The Martin Luther King, Jr. International Chapel in Atlanta, Georgia.

A promising musician since an early age, Lavenia suspended a professional musical career after college in order to start a family, raise two sons and follow a successful career path dedicated to public service, inspired to help others. Today, Lavenia is renewing the pursuit of her passion as a vocalist full-time.

In celebration of Women's National History Month (March 2009), Lavenia was invited by The State Department to perform with an all female jazz quartet for former U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton, garnering rave reviews. At the invitation of The White House, Lavenia, along with The Metropolitan Baptist Music Ministry performed at The Day of Prayer Service for the Katrina Hurricane victims at The Washington National Cathedral (September 2005).

Festival credits include: Maryland Museum of African Art Jazz Festival, Duke Ellington Jazz Festival, DC Jazz Festival, 2012 National Cherry Blossom Festival and The Mid Atlantic Jazz Festival where she has been invited to perform for three consecutive years to sold out audiences.

Lavenia's stage credits include her recent performance in the production, "Washington's Greatest Slave Escape: In the Spirit of The Pearl", written and directed by D. Marietta Williams at The University of the District of Columbia. Lavenia has also given a powerful performance in the production, "Never Turn Back", written and directed by Curtis King at The Kennedy Center, Millennium Stage (2004). In February 2004, she was the recipient of an award for "Outstanding Performance" in Tribute to Mahalia Jackson, presented by The Department of Commerce, Blacks in Government.

One of her greatest rewards was being invited as the featured soloist at The 40th Anniversary of the Martin Luther King, Jr., March on Washington at The Kennedy Center Concert Hall, where she shared the stage with legendary actor Ozzie Davis (Aug. 2003). Another notable performance was as a backup vocalist for Diana Ross at The Merriwether Post Pavilion, Columbia, MD.

Lavenia is also the Creator, Executive Producer, Actor and Vocalist in two original productions: 1. "Sista's Can Sa-a-ng" — A Tribute to Female Legends in Jazz. This production is a poignant, soul searching, hand-clapping, toe-tapping journey down memory lane; and 2. "A Tribute to Mahalia Jackson," a one-woman show told in dialogue and song where Lavenia weaves historical information with praise, humor, seriousness and humility.

Her debut CD, "Introducing Lavenia Nesmith," was released in 2014.

PERFORMANCES



HIGHLIGHTS

January 2000 - **CREATOR, EXECUTIVE PRODUCER & ACTOR** - **"A TRIBUTE TO MAHALIA JACKSON"**

A show that weaves historical information with humor, praise, and humility in a performance of reverence to one of God's verses who is truly a lyric from the Lord.

August 2003 – Soloist at the **40th Anniversary for the March on Washington, Kennedy Center Concert** Hall to perform Mahalia Jacksons, *"Trouble of the World"* to sold out audience.

February 2004 – **Awarded "Outstanding Performance"** in *"A Tribute to Mahalia Jackson"*, by Blacks in Government, Department of Commerce.

2006 – **CREATOR, EXECUTIVE PRODUCER & ACTOR** - **"SISTA'S CAN SANG – A TRIBUTE TO FEMALE LEGENDS IN JAZZ"**

A musical journey into the lives of 4 female jazz legends that takes place in an imaginary museum where they come alive in spirit, taking the audience through a toe-tapping, hand-clapping, tear-jerking sentimental trip down memory lane.

February 2007 - performed *"SISTA'S CAN SANG"* at The Martin Luther King, Jr., International at the invitation of The Marietta-Roswell Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority Chapel, Morehouse College in Atlanta.

March 2009 - In celebration of National Women's History Month, performed at the State Department **before Hillary Clinton.**

May 2011 - performed a **critically acclaimed** tribute to the late jazz legend Abbey Lincoln with an all-star musician cast.

February 2012 - performed *"A Tribute To Mahalia Jackson"* at The Mid-Atlantic Jazz Festival to rave reviews.

Sarah Hearn of the D.C. Gospel Examiner wrote *"Lavenia Nesmith gave a tour de force performance in her powerful one woman show!"*

BOOKING & CONTACT



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SOCIAL MEDIA



- * likes and friends
- * facebook.com/pages/Lavenia-Nesmith



- * live performance videos
- * youtube.com/lavenianesmith



- * information about upcoming shows
- * reverbnation.com/lavenianesmith

WHERE TO FIND MUSIC

