

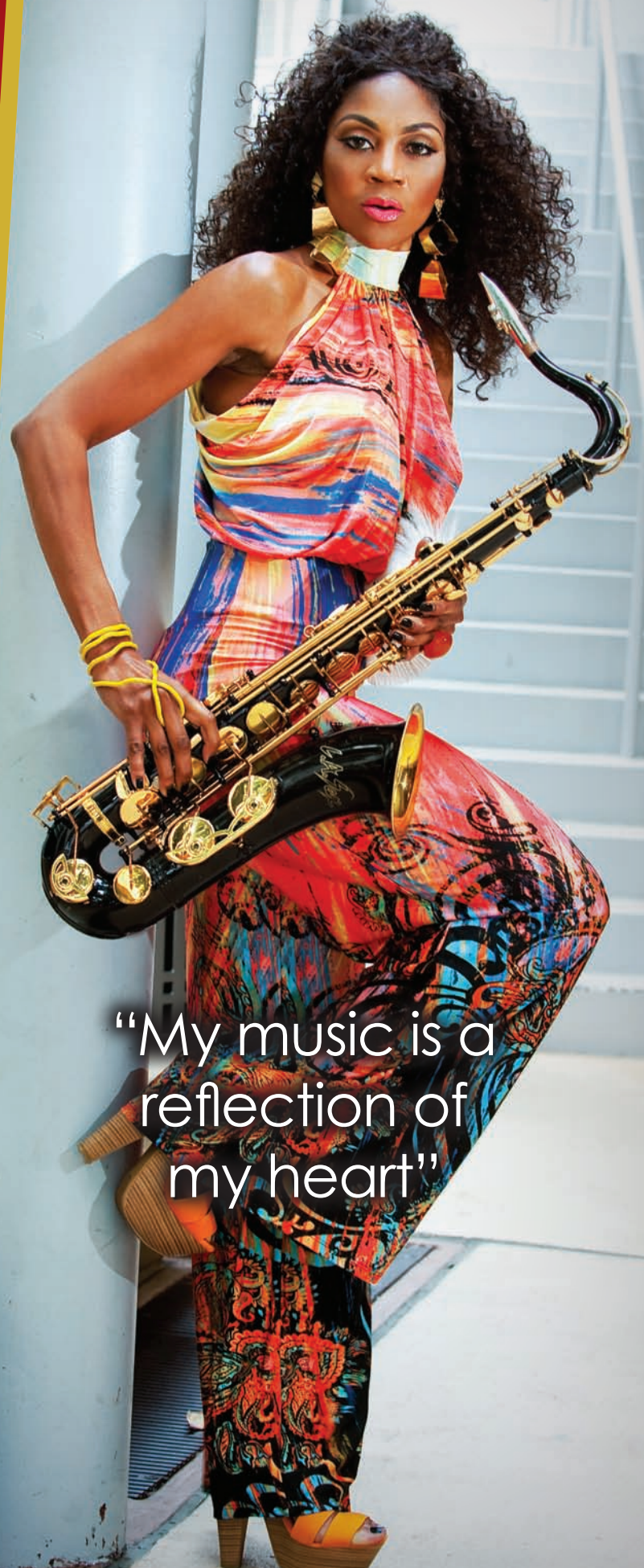
Theresa Grayson

Born in Tyler, Texas and raised in Houston, Theresa Grayson began playing piano and sax (among other woodwind instruments) in fourth grade and enjoyed an encouraging stream of accolades for her outstanding musicianship throughout grade school. Building a musical foundation on regular performances at church beginning at age 12, she further honed her musical skills and developed her passion under the tutelage of internationally known instructors/musicians Chuck Nolan, Dr. Woody Witt and Dr. Rod Cannon of Sam Houston State University and North Texas University—where she earned a degree in music performance and jazz studies. Grayson continued her education with two master’s degrees with an emphasis in music education and leadership. She plans to continue her studies to earn her doctorate degree. She has been a renowned music educator since the early 2000s, first as an orchestra director at a middle school and currently teaching music at an elementary school in Ft. Bend County.

After drawing on her extensive spiritual background to record her inspirational instrumental debut *It’s All About You*, Grayson tapped renowned gospel and jazz pianist and multi-instrumentalist Terence Fisher—a musical mainstay in both Shreveport and Houston—to help her take her urban jazz game to the next level. On her second solo release, *Live2Love*, the multi-talented Grayson showcases her versatile skills on soprano and tenor sax and flute along with her soulful lead vocals on several tracks.

Blending everything from gospel, pop and R&B to blues, calypso, Latin and classical music into her unique brand of cutting edge jazz, Grayson brings a fascinating background as a first call side person to her evolving solo career. It is a testament to saxophonist Theresa Grayson’s powerful, high impact composing skills that the original songs on her breakthrough album *Live2Love* stand up perfectly alongside a batch of smartly arranged cover songs we’ve known and loved from the 70s through the current decade.

www.theresagrayson.com



“My music is a reflection of my heart”

Theresa Grayson MUSIC FROM THE HEART

ON STAGE

The Texas based saxstress has performed in her hometown of Houston and in most of the state's major cities with her own band and two renowned cover ensembles, while embarking on her own solo career. She's since shared the stage and opened for notable contemporary jazz stars like Peter White, Marion Meadows, Mindi Abair and Ronnie Laws as well as vocalists Michael Bolton and Will Downing. Over the years, Grayson has performed at the Third Annual Soul Fest in Austin, Texas, Beaumont Jazz Festival, Red Cat Jazz Festival, Idyllwild Jazz Festival, Zachary Breaux Jazz Festival, Women In Jazz, AFRAM Festival, Baltimore, MD, Jeff Majors Homeless Tour, One Love Cruise, Yolanda Adams Wellness Tour, Lamp Lighters Awards, KHOU Great Day Houston, Channel 26 Fox Rocks Live, Music World's House of Dereon, Dr. Bobby Jones Gospel Artist Showcase, The House of Blues and Houston International Jazz Festival.

"I have had the unique opportunity to perform music in the pop and contemporary jazz worlds, and all of these experiences have given me a taste of what it would be like to be a solo artist," says Grayson. "Leading my own band for several years, I have always had a set list that mixes feel good originals and cover songs with unique arrangements that get people up dancing – and my goal with *Live2Love* was to capture that spirit in the studio."

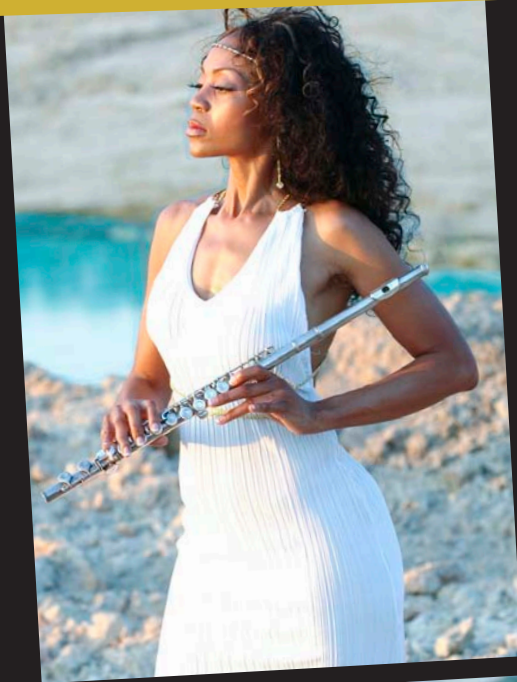
NOTABLE LIVE PERFORMANCES

- One Love Cruise - Bahamas, San Domingo
- Zachary Breaux Jazz Festival - Port Arthur, TX
- Soul of East Austin Festival - Austin, TX
- St. James Courtyard - Houston, TX (w/ Peter White)
- Houston International Jazz Festival - Houston, TX (opened for Mindi Abair & Will Downing)
- Beaumont Jazz Festival - Beaumont, TX (w/ Marion Meadows)
- Idyllwild Jazz In the Pines - Idyllwild, CA (w/ Yve Evans)
- NASA Space Center - Clearlake, TX (w/ Ronnie Laws)
- Red Cat Jazz Festival - Houston, TX (opened for Ronnie Laws & Marion Meadows)
- Three Rivers Casino - Florence, OR (w/ Michael Bolton)
- House of Blues - Houston, TX (w/ Password)
- Miller's Outdoor Theatre for Women in Jazz - Houston, TX
- Blue Dolphin Bar & Grill - Gambrills, MD (w/ Jeff Majors, Jazz Harpist)
- Crescendos Jazz and Blues Lounge - Miami, Fl (w/ Johnny Holliday, trumpeter)
- AFRAM Festival - Baltimore, MD (w/ Jeff Majors)
- Lamp Lighters Awards - Raleigh, NC (w/ Jeff Majors)
- Fox Jazz Café - Tampa, FL (w/ BK Davis)
- Ravello Lounge (M Resort, Spa & Casino) - Las Vegas, NV (w/ Ghalib Ghallab)
- Golden Nugget - Las Vegas, NV (w/ Password)
- Great Day Houston (KHOU11) - Houston, TX



www.theresagrayson.com
bookings@theresagrayson.com

Theresa Grayson MUSIC FROM THE HEART



MUSIC

Live2Love kicks off with “More Pressure”, Grayson’s original old school funky jam featuring jangly guitar, bouncy bass, shimmering Rhodes-styled keyboards (courtesy of Quincy Cole & Terence Fisher) and the perfect showcase for her super-melodic silky soprano style and deep improvisational skills. She then cuts to the heart of the contemporary pop moment, doing some tasty horn texturing around her lead tenor on a turbocharged, high-octane romp through Bruno Mars’ “Locked Out of Heaven”. Continuing on the journey, she takes us back a few decades for a dreamy, soulful rendition of Hall & Oates’ iconic “Sara Smile”, highlighted by acoustic guitar, Fisher’s retro keys and Grayson’s passionate, soaring sax.



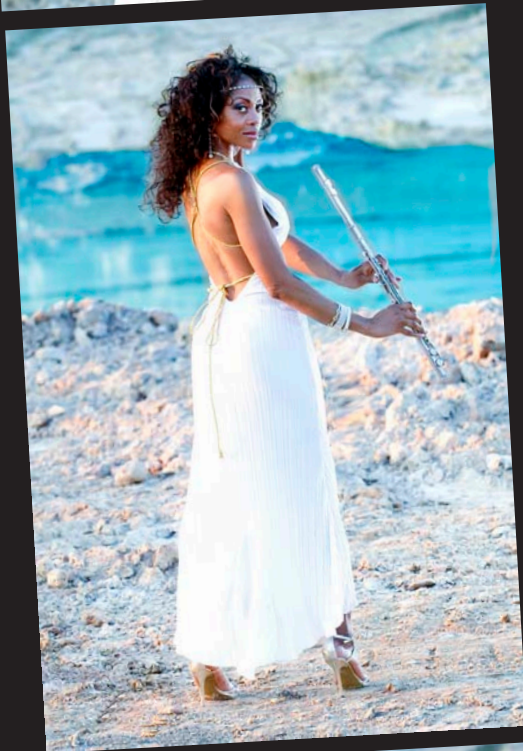
She then turns on the sexy with her sax, flute and sultry vocals, adding subtle touches of sass and grit to Sade’s infectious “Smooth Operator”. Swinging the tempo back to cool, hypnotic crunch-funky, Grayson grooves in a gospel-jazz mode through John Legend’s mid-tempo ballad “Tonight (Best You’ve Ever Had).” Her peppy and playful roll through Maroon 5’s “Moves Like Jagger” has a clapping percussion groove that urges listeners to clap or stomp along. Taking her cue from Aretha Franklin’s legendary gospel-fired version, the saxtress brings all the emotion out of Carole King’s “Natural Woman”, surrounding her powerful horn melody with brassy harmonies and an

intense organ foundation. Promise turns to hope as she compliments her dreamy soprano lines with sensual vocals on the soulful ballad, “Spend My Life”. “Afterthoughts” opens with funk’d out, electric guitar riff, then eases into a cool, mid tempo pocket that doubles as a dance floor for Grayson’s spirited soprano. “Close Your Eyes” and “Just A Little Time” are soaring, magical showcases for Grayson’s lush, late night candlelit romantic vibe. Grayson wraps the set with



a sensual, chill version of Tony! Toni! Tone!’s 1990 R&B hit “It Never Rains (In Southern California)”.

“I approached the album from the perspective of a fan, choosing some of my favorite songs that I knew I would want to play and hear over and over,” she adds. “I’m really happy with these arrangements of songs from multiple eras, and the chance to introduce myself as a songwriter and arranger. My music is a reflection of my heart and the melodies I play are the steps of my own experiences. My desire is to touch a special place in the listener’s heart and create a warm feeling of peace and happiness. I want to leave the listener smiling, knowing that this was more than just a recording, it was a life experience that I want to share with them.”



Theresa Grayson MUSIC FROM THE HEART



REVIEWS

“Because the urban jazz market has been inundated in recent years with so many “cover” albums, there’s a tendency to be skeptical about an emerging artist adding yet another to the mix. Theresa Grayson adds such a masterful swirl of energy and subtlety to these current and classic songs—and showcases such a range of talents, including those as a flutist, vocalist and arranger—that this proves to be the perfect approach for her emergence as a solo artist. The familiar melodies draw the listener in, but once there, we’re fully focused on her soaring sax passions and the retro-soul elements she incorporates into every track. The original track that opens the set “More Pressure” shows her skills at penning in the pocket, modern meets retro tunes – and hopefully is a down payment on a full delivery with subsequent albums.”

– Jonathan Widran

“A tenor and soprano saxophonist with attractive tones on her instruments, Theresa Grayson’s early influence was gospel before she developed into a fine interpreter of R&B and pop melodies. Her second CD *Live2Love*, the follow up to her earlier *It’s All About You*, is a strong example of danceable and grooving mood music. In addition to Theresa Grayson’s saxophones, flute and vocals, a key ingredient on *Live2Love* is producer Terrence Fisher who provides many of the arrangements in addition to playing keyboards, taking some of the background vocals and providing most of the drum programming. Grayson delivers a solid serving of smooth with fresh and interesting interpretations that sets this sophomore project apart.”

– Scott Yanow, author of 11 books including *The Great Jazz Guitarists*, *The Jazz Singers* and *Jazz On Record 1917-76*



CONTACT INFO:

BOOKINGS

L2L Records

Contact: 281-224-2631

<http://www.youtube.com/user/theresagraysononsax/videos>

<https://twitter.com/theresaonsax>

<https://www.facebook.com/pages/Theresa-Grayson-on-Sax/120089231394133>



www.theresagrayson.com
bookings@theresagrayson.com