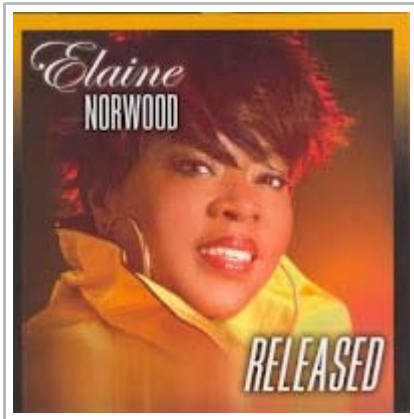




SATURDAY, JULY 10, 2010

Elaine Norwood - Released



Elaine Norwood
Released
 Highly Favored Music 2010
www.highlyfavoredmusic.com

On the polyrhythmic first track of her fourth solo CD, *Released*, veteran vocalist Elaine Norwood sings about offering up undignified praise. Her praise may be undignified, but *Released* is anything but. In fact, it is one of the best gospel

albums I've heard this year.

The album's winning formula is Norwood's outstanding singing, crisp production at the hands of 70's songster Leon Haywood and Sanchez Harley, well-selected songs and solid musicianship (bonus points for having a real brass section!). No matter what style Norwood sings in - and she covers quite a range on *Released* - she handles it equally well. Having said that, she is at her very best on the straight-ahead gospel song and her current hit, "He's Still Working On Me."

Other album highlights include Norwood's popular gospelization of Alicia Keys' smash, "If I Ain't Got You," remade as "If I Ain't Got You, Jesus." A rendition of "Soon-a Will Be Done" (aka "Troubles of the World") smacks of Mahalia's own. "I'll Say Yes" is announced as a "toe-tapper," but it's more like a sanctified-style hand-clapper.

Norwood, whose aunt is the great Dorothy Norwood, joins her father, Pastor Charles Norwood, on a California contemporary gospel version of James Cleveland's "God Has Smiled On Me." Pastor and daughter make a lovely duo and ought to consider recording again in the future.

Subscribe To

- Posts ▼
- Comments ▼

The Black Gospel Blog...

Launched July 28, 2004 as:
THE first...
THE official...
THE *definitive* blog on black gospel music.

Technorati Authority #1 on black gospel music.

Visitor Stats

More than 23,000 visits in the past month!

More than 900,000 visits and 1.4 million page views since we started counting!

LISTEN NOW!



NEW! 2/02/12

MUSIC HOUR ARCHIVES

Elaine Norwood honed her vocal craft for many years backing artists from Mariah Carey to the Isley Brothers, as well as singing commercial jingles. All those years of hard work has clearly paid off. She is a stone singer and *Released* is how a gospel album should sound.

Five of Five Stars

gPod Picks: "He's Still Working On Me," "I'll Say Yes," "If I Ain't Got You, Jesus."

Reviewed by Bob Marovich for [The Black Gospel Blog](#).

Posted by [Bob Marovich](#) at **8:15 PM** 

Recommend this on Google

1 comments:

Anonymous said...

Good to know that Elaine is the neice of the great Dorothy Norwood.

7:27 PM

[Post a Comment](#)

[Newer Post](#)

[Home](#)

[Older Post](#)

Subscribe to: [Post Comments \(Atom\)](#)

[Episode 1/17/12](#)

[TBGB: The Best of 2011](#)

[Episode 12/27/11](#)

[Episode 12/12/11](#)

[Episode 11/29/11](#)

[Episode 11/14/11](#)

[Episode 10/24/11](#)

[Episode 10/4/11](#)

TBGB Reviews are now also on [GospelCity.com](#)! Click here:



About Me



[Bob Marovich](#)
Chicago, Illinois,
United States

Gospel music historian and writer, record collector and host of WLWU's "Gospel Memories" since May 2001, Bob is at work on a comprehensive history of the first fifty years of gospel music in Chicago.

[View my complete profile](#)

Bob Marovich on Rev. Harold Bailey's Television Program



November 2011

Book TBGB's Bob Marovich to do a multi-media presentation on the history of gospel music for your church or organization. Contact him at bob@gospelmemories.com for more details.

Bob Marovich on Tanya Dallas-Lewis's "The Music Box"

[Bob Marovich on "The Music Box"](#)

iTunes U: Preserving At-Risk