

sky Entertainment

MASTA

"THE EDGE OF SOUL"

This 29 Faith road journey began , in the Tidewater area of Suffolk Va. where Masta was born. From what he can remember, singing has always been a part of him, always knowing how too. And could have been professional at whatever the tender age was ! Had someone the understanding of this Diamond, with the ability to perform any style even then.

In hindsight, he could see now how he was training with all the great voices, Nat king Cole, Jackie Wilson, James Brown, Johnny Mathis, and of course Frank Sinatra, as well as a host of others that were all so promenant in his developement. From soul, to whatever was the flavor of the chart .

Masta was always able to harmonize, never really knowing what he was doing technically, but always in line with 1 3 5 harmony, and even the 7th ! Just from experimenting with the relative frequencies. Being able to teach some of his singing buddies how too, and them not understanding how to maintain the harmony, of which seem to come so easy to him.

Naturally, early on he was envolved in singing gospel, and what a great feeling it was to go to church and see the groups in their "bright colored suits" ! Singing those harmonies, and getting the congregation so excited !

At the age of about 16, Masta joined a local group around town called the Roc-Kays, that a Tidewater hit of some sucess, entitled, " a love as true as mine.

Within this group was so much talent and energy, they played a lot of what you would call the chitlin circuit gigs. Clubs that were back in the woods. All across Virginia , and the Carolina's.

After about 2 years with this unit, Tidewater lights were just not bright enough. So off to New York.

New York is where that special something happened ! Masta was asked to take on the lead vocal duties of a group that called themselves, "Late Night Fantasy", later we dropped the late night.

What was so special, was that the members of this band had played with the like Jimi Hendrix, the isley brothers, wilson pickett, the temptations, isaac hayes, and on and on! The sound that this band was not like anything i had ever heard, there was this weight and edge, that was compelling and inspiring all the more to me.

We did gigs around New York before moving to Connecticut under the management of none other than WWF's own Vince Mc Man ! Little did we know who he would become !The rest is history.

We did some woodshedding and recording while there, who knows what happen to the tapes ! In late 1974 or so, our management filed for bankruptcy, end of that chapter.

Enter Marvin Gaye, who brings us to Hollywood, to do some recording that never happens, because of aaaah, who knows ! i did manage to get him to sign off on some paperwork to collect \$10g's ! Thanks Marvin.

This was 1975, and we as a band was disbanded and not sure of our direction anymore. Everyone goes their seperate ways.

3 band members, myself included worked Catalina Island for about a year, a great year at that ! until we got Island fever. Which brings us back to the mainland , and then from odd job, to odd job, to club gig.

1977 Masta attends LACC to get his musical skills up to a higher standard ! oh well, i'm still working on that standard.

Masta had the good fortune of working with Keith Wyatt , who felt his services could be used here at Musicians Institute. That was 1991. I have been priviledged and honored to be a part of this machine, that has allowed me to travel to Japan, as well Finland to do clinics and special performances.

I have had the pleasure of working with the likes of Norman Brown, Keb'Mo, Scott Henderson, The Midnight Movers, Mandrill, Don Covay, Miss Thelma Houston, Ollie Ali Woodson of the Temptations, Hal Leonard Publishing House ,And all the countless other Musicians within the Los Angeles area that has made my life and journey so fulfilled, and continue to do so ! still traveling 29 faith road.