

NYJA SHINE

Traditional Voice Training, Vocal Performance, & Songwriting

Michelle “Nyja” Shine-Jenkins is a unique gifted vocalist specializing in genres such as traditional Gospel, Jazz, NeoSoul, R&B, Contemporary Christian, Urban, and Pop. Her teaching philosophy is, “Anyone can learn to sing, but must first find their authentic voice. It takes patience, dedication, and the love for music to succeed.” Nyja’s teaching method and style is considered “old school” in the sense that her students are taught to sing from the heart by finding their personal “tone” and building an “ear for music” and establishing the solid technique fundamentals. Her students also learn to feel the music, especially AFTER they become one with the message of the lyrics. She tells her students, “We are an audience of one. Passion cannot be taught; everyone has passion, it’s all about finding the music within you and bringing it out.” Nyja’s voice teaching experience expands a period of 20 years, including providing vocal lessons to inner city kids ages 5-16 for several years and managing a performing arts academy through Hillsborough County parks and recreational partnership for 4 years.

For Nyja, it all began at the tender age of three in Tampa, Florida where she was born and raised. The youngest of 4, she was taught how to sing and to this day still carries the torch of her late mother, grandmother and grandfather all of whom paved the way for her musical talents to flourish. Her late grandmother was a recording artist and background singer for many legendary



gospel groups and singers. Nyja's vocal range such as her tenor capabilities is attributed from her late grandfather who was an extraordinaire of quartet groups and sang both bass and baritone. At the age of 15 her powerful voice led her to become the youngest member of the adult choir at her local church. As a high school sophomore, Nyja developed the first gospel choir club. The choir entered competitions, sang at various programs, church events and received several awards before she graduated in the top 10% of her class with a 4.7 GPA. At 17, her musical ingenuity expands from singing gospel to songwriting, arranging songs and writing jingles and she released a highly acclaimed single, "True Repentance" amongst other releases. Her passion continued to bring performance opportunities such as being a part of the Neo-Soul group, "True Soul" and was the only leading female vocalist performing under the stage name "Harmony". True Soul's most notable appearances spanned from performances at various radio engagements, Spoken Word events at the University of South Florida, and an opening performance for Doug E. Fresh at the Black Heritage concert in 2008.

Nyja's Performance experience includes singing with National Recording Artist Todd Dulaney, as well as recorded background vocals for Grammy-nominated and stellar Award-winner Tye Tribbett on the Elevation Collective Album. She also starred as a lead character "Mama Earline" and vocalist in the stage play "Faithworks".

With over 20 years of experience as praise and worship leader, Nyja also teaches vocal techniques to the church choir. She is currently the worship leader for her local church for the past 5 years. A quote passed down to Nyja that she lives by and in which she passes on to her students, "Your God-given gifts and talents will get you to the door of opportunities... your character, humbleness, work ethic and passion will keep you there."