

THE UK'S ESSENTIAL BLACK MUSIC MONTHLY

ECHOES

- 1976 -
Over Four Decades
Of Black Music
Journalism
- 2018 -

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Tamia Smokin' Hot

Yardie

Scenes You'd Like
To See

Kaya: 40th Anniversary

Plus...

Tia Fuller
Darryl Anders' AgapéSoul
Cornell 'C.C.' Carter
Brandon Brown Collective
Steel Spanglez

SWEET TOP RHYTHMS 25

1. **RAI**
LOVE'S ON THE WAY [PROMO]
2. **CORNELL C C CARTER**
ONE LOVE [CDC]
3. **JAKI GRAHAM**
WHEN A WOMAN LOVES [JTN]
4. **TONY MOMRELLE**
THIS ISN'T LOVE/YOU GOT ME RUNNING [REEL PEOPLE]
5. **CHANGE**
HIT OR MISS [ODC]
6. **JAMES DAY FT CHERYL PEPSII RILEY**
GROOVE NIGHTS - U-NAM REMIXES [SONG KING]
7. **CHRIS JASPER**
DANCE WITH ME [GOLD CITY]
8. **THE SUFFERS**
EVERYTHING HERE [SHANACHIE]
9. **LOUIE VEGA FT BE BE WINANS/CINDY MIZELLE ETC**
NYC DISCO [WARNER]
10. **FREDDIE JACKSON**
LOVE SIGNALS [CLIMAX]
11. **MICHON YOUNG**
LOVE LIFE EXPERIENCES VOL 2 [PROMO]
12. **JOHN REID**
NIGHTCRAWLERS SOUL SESSIONS EP [PROMO]
13. **TAMIA**
LEAVE IT SMOKIN' [E ONE]
14. **DARRYL ANDERS' AGAPÉSOUL**
CONVERSATIONS [PROMO]
15. **CITRUS SUN**
RIDE LIKE THE WIND [DOME]
16. **FUNMILAYO NGOZI**
SUNSHINE [PROMO]
17. **JODY WATLEY & SRL**
THE PASSION (ALEX DI CIO MIX) [ACEBEAT]
18. **GROOVE ASSOCIATION FT GEORGIE B & DEBORAH BELL**
DANCING IN HEAVEN [GAB]
19. **BASHIYRA**
INDEPENDENT [PROMO]
20. **JAZZ**
ALL YOUR LOVE [PROMO]
21. **PEABO BRYSON**
ALL SHE WANTS TO DO IS ME [PERSPECTIVE]
22. **JAYNA BLACKWELL**
THAT'S MY SONG - COLIN WATSON MIX [C TOWN]
23. **LYNNE FIDDMONT**
POWER OF LOVE [MIDLIFE]
24. **LEXI FT GENE MOORE**
I CHOOSE YOU [CAPITAL]
25. **TOWER OF POWER**
SOUL SIDE OF TOWN [ARTISTRY]

SOUL SIDES

Chris Wells is searching for [and finds] progressions.



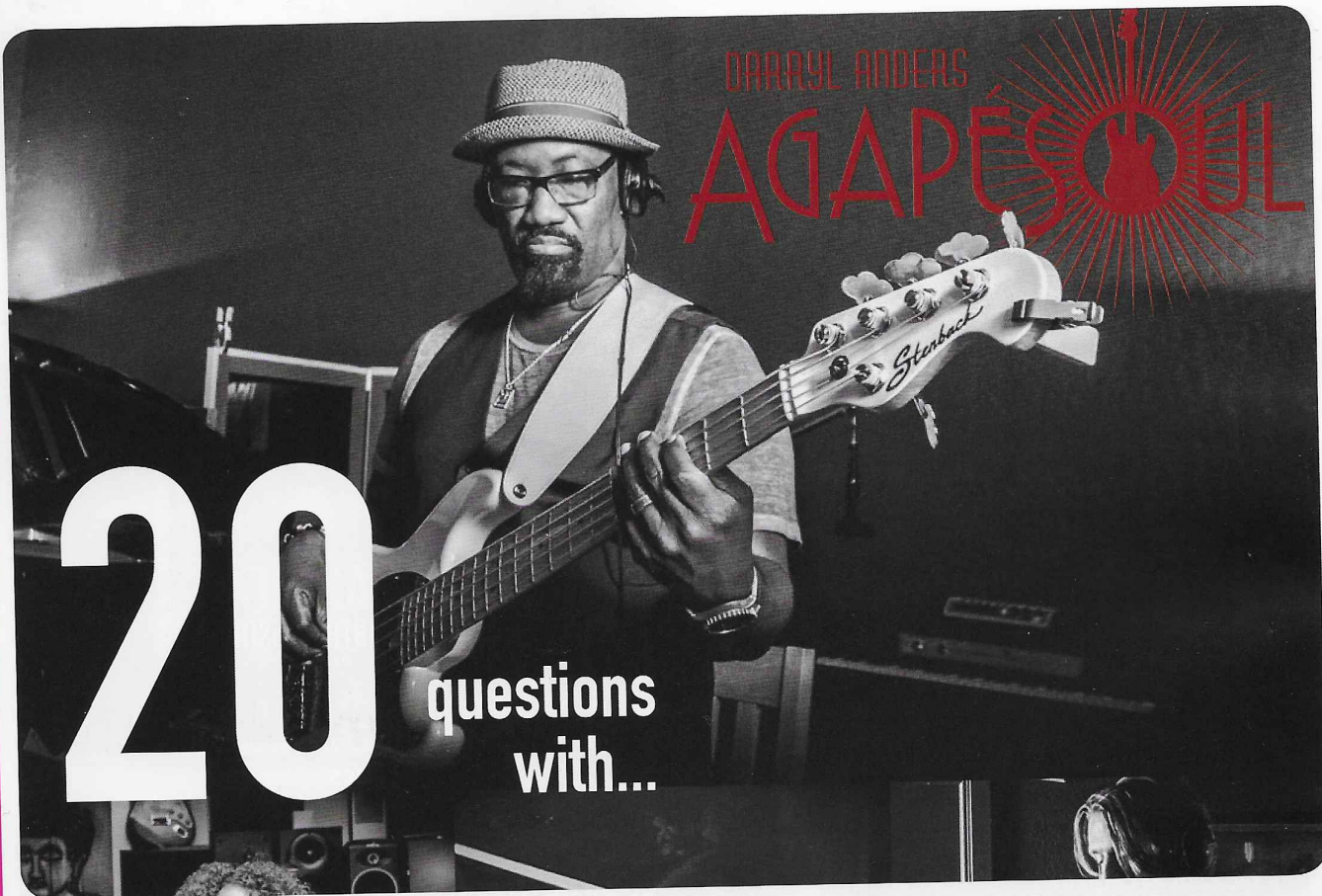
Haven't heard a lot from **Peabo Bryson** since his *Missing You* album back in 2007, so it's a pleasant surprise to find the 67-year-old back in harness with producers Jimmy Jam and Terry Lewis for a new set on their reactivated Perspective Records label. *Stand For Love* certainly opens well enough, the recently circulated single *All She Wants To Do Is Me* providing a sonic bridge between what Jam/Lewis did for such as Alex O'Neal and Cherrelle back in the day, and Peabo's own late-seventies/early-eighties sound, as it strides merrily and melodically along. The ballad that follows it, *Love Like Yours*, is decent too, although I wish they'd left the silly effects off the lead vocal: Peabo might [understandably] only be 95% of what he once was vocally these days, but he just doesn't need the help. The song itself is fine, though: one of those Bryson *soul* tunes rather than the M.O.R. slowies he sometimes deals in [to Grammy-winning effect]. The Spanish guitar intro and easy, finger-snapping sway to *Looking For Sade* is very cool; they then take him a bit more R&B/pop on the shuffling title track [not my thing] and thereafter it all veers inexorably towards the cats' eyes - *Goosebumps* has a crossover country ballad feel to it, *Exotic* could be one of his Disney soundtrack tunes, *Here For You* is anthemic pop and *Smile* is aimed at the wedding market. A bit unimaginatively, they then close out with a medley of his old hits - *Feel The Fire/I'm So Into You/Tonight I Celebrate My Love For You* - leaving us with only eight new tracks and less 'soul-style' Peabo than we might have been hoping for. On the other hand, half an album is more than

I was expecting from the man this year, so I won't say I'm unhappy.

By the way, Peabo became a father again on New Year's Day 2018, his British wife, Tanya [formerly of the group 411 and 33 years his junior], producing them a son, name of Robert. Still feeling the fire, then.

Conversations, the new album from Bay Area bassist/bandleader **Darryl Anders** and his **AgapeSoul** outfit, is damn good. Alongside Anders, drummer Aaron Green, guitar player Cam Perridge and vocalist Zoe Ellis provide the core of the band, augmented from time to time by an impressive array of guest players, on this occasion including Tommy Sims, our own Geoffrey Williams, Paul Jackson Jr., Levi Seacer from Prince's set-up, Ivan Neville, Eric Gales and Snarky's two horn players Michael Maher and Chris Bullock. Musically, it sits on the fertile borderlands between soul, funk and jazz, so there are crossovers in style with such as EW&F and Incognito, and the songs are, if anything, up a notch or two from the previous set. The opening tune, *Kite*, has to be one of the year's most instantly addictive, bass-pulsed grooves. *The Way That We Love*, led by Zoe Ellis, could be an Incognito favourite from any of their last dozen albums. [Nice bass solo from Darryl.] *Changes* and its later reprise benefit from a relaxed, malleable vocal from the aforesaid Ms. Ellis. Elsewhere, Graham Central Station's Ashling Cole turns up to front a cover of The Ohios' *Sweet Sticky Thing*, Tommy Sims lends his voice to the ballad *Home* and Geoffrey Williams, once of this parish but now down in Australia, leads us through another slowie, *Lesson*. The funky, New Orleans-ish instrumental, *Fruitvale Gumbo*, is strong, too. / cracker. And it's not even Christmas.





WHAT IS YOUR FULL NAME?

Darryl C. Anders.

WHO WOULD PLAY YOU IN THE BIO-PIC OF YOUR LIFE?

Ving Rhames.

WHO WOULD YOU REALLY LIKE TO WORK WITH?

Bluey.

WHICH SONG DO YOU WISH YOU HAD WRITTEN?

The Lesson by Geoffrey Williams

CURRENT FAVOURITE OWN SONG?

Home/Conversations.

WHAT LESSONS FROM THE FIRST ALBUM DID YOU BRING TO THIS NEW SET?

Trust God! Be fearless. Trust your instincts. Ask for what you want; never settle. Surround yourself with people you love and respect.

WHO ARE YOUR HEROES OF THE BASS?

Marcus Miller, Tommy Sims, Michael League and Oskar Cartaya - all great composers and band leaders.

WHOSE WAS THE BEST LIVE GIG YOU EVER SAW?

Prince *Musicology* tour; MeShell Ndegeocello *Plantation Lullabies* tour, Stevie Wonder *Songs In The Key Of Life* tour.

WHAT'S YOUR OPINION ON THE COPYRIGHT DECISION AGAINST ROBIN THICKE/PHARRELL FOR 'STEALING' MARVIN GAYE'S 'GOT TO GIVE IT' UP FOR THEIR 'BLURRED LINES' HIT?

The fact that Robin Thicke tried to preemptively sue Marvin Gaye's estate means he knew he was wrong to begin with. However, if he had not sued them we would not be talking about it.

ARETHA OR BEYONCE?

Aretha!!! Without Aretha there would be no Beyonce. Beyonce is super-talented, but Aretha is the original. Not only is her voice legendary, but the melodies are timeless and her songwriting craft is undeniable.

WHERE IS YOUR FAVOURITE PLACE IN THE WORLD?

At home with my family... or New Orleans!

EVER BEEN IN FEAR FOR YOUR LIFE?

Yes... as a black man living in America in 2018, I'm keenly aware that at any time someone else's insecurity or fear could mean the end of my life.

WHAT ARE YOUR NEIGHBOURS LIKE?

A total melting pot. Black, white, brown and Asian. Mostly quiet, respectful, friendly people.

ILLEGAL DOWNLOADS AND UNDERPAID STREAMING: THEFT, AN UNAVOIDABLE PAIN OR JUST FACTS OF A MODERN MUSICIAN'S LIFE?

I would say theft. When people stopped buying physical product and digital music consumption took over, the big companies rushed in to control the market so that they could still get paid. It's unfair that artists are getting paid fractions of almost nothing for their work, while others rake in the cash.

SHOULD WE ALL STOP PLAYING R. KELLY'S MUSIC IN LIGHT OF THE MANY RUMOURS & ALLEGATIONS?

In my opinion... just because you like someone's music, it doesn't give them a pass for bad behavior. Accountability is not based on popularity or record sales.

SUGGEST A BOOK WORTH READING?

The Five Love Languages by Gary Chapman.

AND A MOVIE WORTH SEEING?

Black Panther.

YOUR CURRENT FAVOURITE TV SERIES?

Black Mirror.

WHOSE ALBUM ARE YOU GOING TO BUY NEXT?

Looking forward to a new Tommy Sims record.

AND FOR YOUR NEXT TRICK?

Writing and producing more music for other artists as well as AgapéSoul.