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THE VOICE

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SANDRA
GODLEY



ON THE COVER
SANDRA GODLEY C & C
INTERNATIONAL AWARD WINNING
ARTIST

The Voice

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Meet Sandra Godley

International Award Winning Gospel Singer

Introduction

Anyone who knows about Coventry, UK knows of its global influence in the area of peace and reconciliation. For 3 years, Sandra Godley worked and performed at Coventry Cathedral and it was during that time she worked for Justin Welby, who has since gone on to achieve a meteoric rise to become the Head of the Church of England, as The Archbishop Canterbury.

Her first gospel album was recorded in 2005 and by the end of 2012 Sandra had signed to global label C&C Music Group and recorded her third album ('Miracle') in 2013 in Nashville, TN. This has gone on to become a landmark album gaining rave reviews and nominations globally the most recent of which is the up-and-coming GMA (Gospel Music Awards), in Italy in July, 2014.

A MOBO nominee for 'Best Gospel Act', Sandra's 'Velvet tones' sooth both the spirit and the soul. Sandra is a true original with a powerful voice, always creative and sensitive, inspired and imaginative, bringing God just that little bit closer to us.



Pictured above:
Sandra Godley

International Recording Star
Management: C & Music Group, Nashville TN



Albums to date:

MIRACLE (2013) - C & C Music Group

ONE THING (2008) - S.Godley

SWEET SURRENDER (2002) - S.Godley

Karin McBride-Chenoweth

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Biography

Born in Bristol, UK, of Jamaican parents, Sandra grew up listening to the likes of Aretha Franklin, Amy Grant, Jessy Dixon, Andrae Crouch and Anita Baker. Her earliest memories of singing and song writing were when she was 12 years old, performing at many conferences, festivals and fronting 2 bands. Sandra came out of these experiences stronger and prepared for her own solo career. Her classy, refined vocals have been compared to Des'ree, Anita Baker and Sade.

In Sandra Godley, we see the embodiment of all the things in a diva we hold dear. Beautiful, yet somehow humble, Sandra Godley is so wonderfully talented that she has evolved from being just a singer/songwriter, to being a stylish, multi-genre songstress. Easily adapting to all of contemporary black music's offerings, Godley has performed funk, disco, house, soul, and R & B effortlessly. By herself, Sandra Godley has evolved from the embodiment of the dance-diva to an elegant songstress.



Always creative and spontaneous, Godley's use of power house vocals in conjunction with the ability of holding an audience spellbound as she solos with an acoustic guitar, has taken black music to higher levels. Sandra has performed on many television and radio networks including BBC, Sky and God TV. With 3 (largely self-penned) albums already under her belt, Sandra's passion as a singer, songwriter, gifted communicator and entertainer is contagious to anyone who meets her...

Background

In 2005, her decision to mark her birthday by recording her first debut album, 'Sweet Surrender' can only best be described as truly remarkable, especially as it stands out for its refreshingly creative and honest approach. 'Sweet Surrender' demonstrates a variety of influences, showcasing the depth and flexibility of her abilities to include 11 tracks with a variety of styles including a twist of R & B, disco, church, and soul where she undoubtedly brings her signature energetic powerhouse vocals with an abundance of love and encouragement: "Looking back, I'm just amazed at how this album came together during one of the most devastating times of my life. My father passed away during the making of my album and I can honestly say that it was God's grace that saw me through." However, a great reward was only just around the corner. Off the back of this album she received the prestigious 2005 UK (GEM) Gospel Entertainment Award for 'Best Female Newcomer': "I was completely amazed and honoured to receive this reward after such a traumatic time. I hope I can be an inspiration to others to go for their dreams!"

More success was to follow as Sandra went on to support the King of Gospel, the late Jessy Dixon twice on 2 UK wide tours: 'I grew up listening to Jessy, his music changed my life. It was an unforgettable experience working with him. He was and still is a legend and will always be one of my all time heroes.' Dubbed a 'Gospel Diva' by Cross Rhythms Magazine, Sandra sings with an unapologetic passion and enthusiasm which the youngest of singers can only dream about. Her second album "One thing" (EP) released in August 2008 reveals a more reflective side of her music and has caused quite a stir. She says: 'One Thing was my 'Selah, pause for thought album. I wanted to take a little time out to write 4 very inspirational songs of hope. I wanted to write these songs straight from the heart so I got my guitar out and just let my spirit fly. I have had so many people say how these songs have helped them overcome their fears and re-kindled a strong sense of hope and a deeper love for God. The song 'I sought the Lord' is testament to the lament call of my heart at that time in my life. I was so desperate for God to answer some very specific needs in my life, and he did, in his time and in his way. There's a God shaped 'hole of hope' in all us. We just need to find it, pause for a moment and invite him to fill it.



Interview

Sandra Godley



1. How did you come to know the Lord Jesus as your savior, Sandra?

I became a christian in 1977 at the age of 13, at a christian youth camp in Wales, UK. I had always been brought up to go to church. However, I remember one day at a youth camp hearing someone saying "you can know all about God but not actually know God at all." That really resonated with me and later on that night I had my first attempt at praying. I said, "God, if you're really there, please prove it to me." Nothing seemed to feel different. I think I was expecting a fanfare of angels to come out of my wardrobe door, but nothing happened, so I went to bed a little disappointed. However, when I woke up the following morning, I felt completely different, really free. I knew something had happened and I just couldn't stop smiling.

2. I believe that all of us would love to sing, I know I would!! How did you first know you could really sing?

People kept telling me I could sing from about the age of 13 yrs. That inspired me to learn to play guitar and from there I started to write my own songs.

3. Did you have any singing lessons and would you encourage people to have them?

Yes, I did and I would most certainly recommend anyone serious about singing take lessons. My singing teacher was an opera singer. She was amazing and taught me breathing and warm up techniques that I practise to this day. She use to record our lessons which meant I could listen and practise when I got home. We would also practise specific pieces of music for performances I was due to perform. I must point out though it was only due to a close friend saying to me: "Sandra, you may have a beautiful voice but in order to keep it that way, you need lessons." Sobering words. Singing lessons can be quite expensive and I would always recommend that you get professional training, but there's plenty of general information you can get from the internet.

4. You write your own songs I am firstly curious as to how you get what is in your heart and your head down on paper and then I am in awe and have to ask the question, how you combine that with amazing music and translate that into the amazing voice of Sandra Godley as a performer, relaying all what God spoke to you? Tell me how it works being a Christian writer & composer to performer?

Usually the tune/music comes first and that could come by me playing my guitar or using a music software like a Logic. However, I also carry a recorder with me wherever I go so I can instantly record anything that comes to mind. Often something will come to me during the night, maybe a set of words or a tune, so I always have my phone next to my bed to record it right away.

I regularly write poetry or inspirational quotes. It means I always have a ready bank of 'words' to pull from when needed. When it comes to putting all that together, I draft the song then pass it to my Producer Jonathan Goodwin who develops the song further. By the time we hit the studio the song structure etc is just about there but there's still time to refine, readjust the song with live musicians. I liken it to making a recipe for a new cake, you just keep adding/taking away ingredients until it's perfect.

5. How important is prayer in your walk with God and in the genre of Gospel Music?

Prayer is vitally important. Personal prayers as well as praying with others keeps me grounded and connected.

6. Is each album like listening to what God has done in your life but you can replay it over and over? For instance when you hear a song can you remember writing it and when you listen to it does it remind how God spoke to you then?

Yes, this is definitely true. My first album 'Sweet Surrender' was an expression of all of me, so on the album there is balance of R&B, gospel, worship etc. But it's the album that cost me the most emotionally as during the making of this album I lost my father to cancer as well as the original producer of the album, a good friend of mine, who died tragically in a car accident.

My second album 'One Thing' was an EP of worship songs. I call it my 'Selah' moment or 'pause for reflection.' My latest album 'Miracle' recorded with C&C Music Group is testament that God still does miracles.



Album Review



Sandra Godley

'Miracle'

C & C Music Group



Review by: 3-in-1 Walking in the Light Ministries (int)
Genre: Gospel
Format: CD



In her latest internationally acclaimed offering, Sandra Godley gives consistent performance after performance of vocal excellence, to bring us an album straight from the heart to the heart...

It is safe to say that this is indeed one of the best British accomplishments in Gospel music for a very long time. From the opening track 'The Big Song' to the last track, the moving, 'Give myself Away' you are taken on a soulful and joyful journey of hope and reconciliation.

By track 5 the album takes the listener on a different, contemporary feel and you are enriched by the beautiful 'Beloved' and 'Innocence'. However, traditionalist will also welcome 'Amazing Grace' with an upbeat tempo and the touching 'Hide Me in your Presence'. You will find yourself replaying these time and time again and allowing yourself to be immersed in His presence.

The album itself is beautifully put together and produced - the choice of songs highlighting perfectly the amazing tones of Sandra Godley. It is not surprising this album has gained International recognition; nominated for a MOBO 'Album of the Year' award in 2013 and more recently Sandra has been nominated for various categories at the prestigious up-and-coming [GMA awards](#) in Italy in July.

For me, despite all the 'fame' this album reminds us of what it is all about, the message remains the same and artists like Sandra Godley enable us, as listeners, to marvel at God's greatness...

Karin McBride- Chenoweth

A promotional banner for the GMA Awards. The background features a black and white image of the Colosseum in Rome. On the right side, there is a portrait of Sandra Godley. The text 'GMA AWARDS' is written in large, gold, outlined letters. Below it, 'GOSPEL MUSIC AWARDS' is written in smaller, white, outlined letters. The name 'SANDRA GODLEY' is prominently displayed in white, bold letters. Below her name, it says '(MULTIPLE AWARD WINNING GOSPEL ARTIST) (UK)'. The date '19th JULY' is written in white, bold letters. Below that, 'ROME ITALY 2014' is written in white. At the bottom, there are several logos, including a crown, a star, and a globe. On the right side, there is a green banner that says 'POWERED BY: GOD'S GENERALS FOUNDATION INTERNATIONAL' and the website 'www.gospelmusicawardsitaly.com'.



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