

trombonist Wycliffe Gordon, jazz trumpeter Russell Gunn, Bishop Paul S. Morton, Musiq Soulchild, Keiko Matsui, Maysa, Eightball & MJG, JOI, Michelle Williams, Malcolm Jamal Warner, Fred Wesley of the JB's etc.

In recent years, I have also started curating my own catalog of music. In 2013, I released my most successful single release entitled "How It Feels" which features Musiq Soulchild. In 2016, I released my first debut album entitled "The Counsel Of Elders" which pays homage to some of my jazz guitar heroes. I am currently touring my most recent release entitled "Exits & Options" (2018EP).

The X/O (Exits & Options) EP was really birthed out of some life challenges I was facing. It was really a therapy session for me, and every song on the EP has its own significant meaning. I am really pleased with the EP and it has been getting great reviews worldwide.

Overall, has it been relatively smooth? If not, what were some of the struggles along the way?

Of course being a professional musician/artist has had its shortcomings. One of the biggest challenges as an artist is dealing with the logistical side of the business. I really think my degree in business and corporate experience has helped me navigate through some of those issues.

It's usually always some unforeseen issue that arises but as they say "the show must go on" and you always have to push through the adversity. The audience does not know or even care about all behind the scenes stuff...they (the audience) just want a great experience and show!

Please tell us about Rod Harris Jr.

My business is music. Mainly, now, as a performing artist and or freelance musician/producer. I have had other artists call me with musical ideas or sketches and it is my job to bring their idea to life. I think one of my most valuable qualities is the ability to call upon different genres of music as a producer and songwriter. Being able to convincingly interpret jazz, soul, gospel, funk, and hip-hop music has awarded my brand many recording and performance opportunities.

If you had to go back in time and start over, would you have done anything differently?

If I had to start over, I would focus more on the things that I can change and not worry about the things I have no control over. When I first started doing music professionally, I used to waste time trying to figure out what the majority of audiences liked or didn't like, what was considered hot or not, instead of just doing me and being confident in what I am offering.

Not everyone is supposed to like what you sell. But if you never present and confident product, you really don't give the audience the chance to like what you are selling. So yeah...I would have spent more time creating and less time debating!

