Leonard M. Williams, Sr.

‘Despite Humble Beginnings, Dreams Do Come True’

Music is a family legacy for the Williams family. Their ministry has impacted the lives and hearts of many throughout the world.

Growing up in rural Mississippi, there were not any managers, recording studios or agents. As a five-year old, Leonard would utilize his imagination on the back porch and pretend that the family's broom was a guitar. To his surprise, that dream would become a reality. He no longer had to sing and entertain the vast field of cotton stalks, but to audiences of 40,000 and more.

From the obscurity of rural Smithdale, Mississippi, the brothers became the household name of Gospel Quartets with their first single, Jesus Will Fix It, on the Songbird Record Label. Leonard Williams was the vibrant sensation at the nucleus of the Grammy-nominated group. For twelve years, Leonard served as the business manager and agent for the Williams Brothers. These responsibilities afforded him the knowledge and expertise needed to run a successful recording enterprise.

In 1989, Leonard decided that it was time to follow his heart. He and his wife Billie launched Melendo Music Production Company. Immediately, the favor of God was upon their lives. They charted a hit for Slim and the Supreme Angels', Death and the Beautiful Lady album. Other musical credits followed including The Jackson Southernaires', Anniversary and the Five Blind Boys of Mississippi’s, Not Gonna Shut Up. The success of Melendo Records began to take the industry by storm and their potential knew no boundaries. Leonard has written songs for and produced countless Gospel artists. He has produced and hosted, A Message of Love, television show on WLBT-TV in Jackson, Mississippi.

“Having a good name is more than the world’s riches.” – Leonard Williams

Mr. Williams has worked in the studio and on stage with many recognized names in the music industry: The Winans, Andre Crouch, the late Rev. James Cleveland and Luther Vandross, Rev. Al Green, Shirley Caesar and Patti LaBelle. As a member of the Williams Brothers and a solo artist, he has traveled and toured extensively. This entrepreneur has established many business contacts and friendships over the years. These doors have opened many opportunities including theater. Leonard starred in the acclaimed Derrick Ellis stage play, Where’s My Father? and is known for his characterization of Reverend Sharp in the Gospel Musical, Lord Please Send Me a Real Woman.

The following are a few of Leonard’s awards and accomplishments: Consultant for the Dove Awards, NBPC (National Black Programming Consortium), and NAACP Image Awards; Presented Keys to several major cities, including his adopted hometown, Jackson, MS; The Stellar Awards Show; Recording Label of the Year Award from the National Black Programmers’ Coalition; Television appearances on Soul Train, Liberty Train, televised Tribute to Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., Bobby Jones Gospel and Singsation.

Leonard Williams is the proud father of two children. His son, LaMorris is a singer, songwriter, producer and engineer in his own right. Amanda is the doting mother of his only grandson, Landon. Mr. Williams is an example that dreams can become a reality despite meager beginnings. He attests that these blessings are a result of remaining humble and in God’s Grace. His latest self-titled release, Leonard Williams is now available.