

IYONA BLAKE

The Artist

Like a butterfly emerging from its cocoon, the voice of Iyona Blake is destined to rise. And, if you didn't think a butterfly could sing, you owe it to yourself to listen! Iyona Blake's colorful, vibrant voice soars beyond a song and into the realm of pure music and ministry.

The Origination...

...Iyona Blake's great adventure began in Arlington, Virginia. Born and raised in the midst of a musical family, her unique gifts were recognized and nurtured early on. If you know Iyona Blake, you know Iyona Blake can sing -- and that for her, music has always been more passion than past-time.

Over the years, Iyona Blake has had many opportunities to share and develop her talent. Through much hard work, dedication and grace, she has endeavored to make the most of each one. Notably, she received a vocal performance diploma from Duke Ellington School of the Arts in Washington, DC. She later earned a Bachelors degree in Voice Performance with a concentration in opera from Shenandoah Conservatory at Shenandoah University (SU) in Winchester, Virginia. While at SU, Iyona Blake competed in and won numerous first place singing competitions, directed the college gospel choir, and was awarded several leading operatic roles, including her three night debut performance of "Ave Maria" at the Washington, DC Kennedy Center Concert Hall.

The Metamorphosis...

Having been nourished by years of classical training and discipline, Iyona Blake grew from exceptional music student to exceptional music teacher. Her signature teaching style and passion for sharing the wonder of music proved an excellent fit for both the Arlington and Fairfax County Virginia public school systems. As a vocal and choral concepts instructor, Iyona Blake's unique ability to connect and relate through music allowed her to effectively teach students on all grade-levels, including those with special needs and disabilities.

Iyona Blake has since continued to uncover new layers of potential and promise, including that of entrepreneur and artist. Currently, she is a sought after private vocal coach and music instructor, specializing in lessons and seminars on "Vocal Care" and "How to be a Better Singer." She is also blessed to have completed her debut solo project entitled ***"Released."***

The Ministry....

For Iyona Blake, ***"Released"*** represents the first fruits of a ministry poised to take flight. Through it, willing listeners of all ages and backgrounds can hitch a ride on a musical journey out of darkness into Divine discovery. From the dialogue style ballad "Chosen" to the gospel flavored declaration of "All Things Through Christ," to the praise and worship invitation "We Welcome You, on to the up-tempo testimony of "More Than Enough," these original recordings are sure to move more than your feet. The title track ***"Released"*** is a multi-layered, musical celebration of New Life in Christ. The classical interlude on this track alone is enough to transport you to Heaven on Earth.

Empowered by her faith, Iyona Blake's unique style and sound flutters from soul to soul, spreading the wondrous message of Salvation through Jesus Christ. As an artist, she weaves gospel with hip-hop, jazz, classical and R&B in a way that is both radical and relevant. As a minister, she renders according to the image of God, always creatively, always passionately, and always with an unyielding commitment to excellence.