

Outrun the Sky with Lalah Hathaway

By Alecia Goodlow-Young

Within the music world when one hears the name Hathaway one expects greatness. Lalah Hathaway is the oldest daughter of legendary R & B singer, Donny Hathaway and classically trained vocalist, Eulaulah Hathaway. It seems that music is truly her destiny. She's been performing all over the world touring with incredible people like Joe Sample, Walter Beasley, Mary J. Blige, Marcus Miller, Meshell Ndegeocello, Art Porter, David Sanborn, Wayman Tisdale, Take 6, The Winans and Grover Washington. Now, she's promoting her latest CD entitled "Outrun the Sky" Right here, right now, Ms. Hathaway will reveal herself within this exclusive interview with Virtue Magazine.

According to Lalah "It took me over the course of ten long years to complete "Out Run the Sky" My biggest challenge was trying to figure out my song selections, only because I wanted to have the greatest album possible. It was crucial that I make good song choices. I'd start picking songs and then I'd change my mind. I love all of my songs, I didn't have any favorites and that made it much harder for me. It's like having a lot of children; you try not to have favorites, because they are all different. With my songs they all have different meanings for me and that's why it was so hard to choose."

On her current album Ms. Hathaway did a remake of Luther Vandross's "Forever, For Always, For Love" She lamented: "I never got a chance to meet him, but I'm sure that he did hear my version and he possibly loved mine as well." This song is also featured on a tribute CD for the late singer.

Lalah has had an amazing musical career. When asked about what it was like to work with so many talented artists and musicians her response was humbling: "I can honestly say that the best thing about my career is that I get to work with my awesome mentors. In a way I feel very blessed, I realize that everyone does not have access to that kind of experience that I have been privileged to encounter. I'm open to learn all that I can and I know that it can only help me become the best person that I can be."

Ms. Hathaway has made guest appearances on many albums which include: Grover Washington, Wayman Tisdale, Marcus Miller, Meshell Ndegeocello and Joe

Sample. According to the music critic Craig Chapman “Lalah’s collaboration with Joe Sample on “The Song Lives On” is brilliant, and should be a fixture in everybody’s music collection.” On that one song the world is granted a delicate treat via Lalah’s smoky and sultry voice fused with the mellow piano tunes seducing us from the finger tips of Joe Sample. What’s not love in collaborations like this!

Upon hearing that her voice was “sultry and seductive” Lalah explained “I’m very lucky. This voice is on loan from God. He has truly blessed me with this talent and it drives me to do what I do even better the next time.” Ms. Hathaway states that she’s always known that she was musically inclined. While she grew up with so much musical history within the home, it all seemed just a normal thing for her.

Donny Hathaway’s music has inspired so many. His music was at times very deep and at other times quite romantic. When he died January 13, 1979 it not only sadden his family and friends, but people he’d never meet; his substantial amount of fans. He left the world beautiful gifts of his voice and music. For many it’s just not Christmas until they hear Donny’s caroling about “This Christmas”

Lalah confided how her father’s life and death influenced her life as his kid. “I was ten years old when daddy died. It is still being revealed to me everyday. I feel his presence all the time. I feel I’m honoring my dad with what I’m doing. I’m sure he’d be very proud of me. I know my mom is and that’s enough for me.”

It must really be a really awesome feeling to hear your recording on the radio for the first time...inquiring minds wanted to know and Lalah was happy to supply the answer. “This was awhile ago when I was living in Boston, while I was in college. At the time when we heard the song we were riding in my friend’s car and my song was played on an am station. I had to pause a moment, then we all got excited.”

Speaking of getting excited Ms. Hathaway has branched off into other well known fields. Such as advertising: she’s sang a commercial jingle; “Umm Good, Possibilities” “Yeah, I’ve had one jingle and I would like to do more. I had fun doing that!” The next field is her official webpage: www.lalahhathaway.com . It feels like home. She engages the visitors as if they were to come into her actual home. Lalah has personal notes, pictures, comments, questions and discussions. She gives the readers the best of her. She’s even put her goals, aspirations and opinions out there to be

reviewed by the whole wide world. When asked was that her intention, Lalah giggled “My first intention was to have a safe place where people can support me. Secondly, I want to be able to relate to my fans and my people. Plus, this is like my very own social club. I’m kinda like a computer geek when it comes to this stuff.”