

Vaneese Thomas

Vaneese Thomas was born in Memphis, Tennessee, the daughter of legendary R&B musician Rufus Thomas. Today, Vaneese's mission is to continue the legacy set by her influential father and carry on the heritage of Memphis music and traditional R&B that touches generations and crosses divides. Vaneese has cultivated her own style by blending all the influences of her background -- R&B, gospel, blues and jazz, and her voice has led her to numerous countries, genres, performers and audiences. Highly regarded by industry insiders, Vaneese's talents as an accomplished performer, songwriter, producer, and actress, have helped place her as a sought-after solo performer as well as a desired vocalist contributing to other top-name performers.

Vaneese has worked with an array of internationally known performers including Luciano Pavarotti, Sting, Stevie Wonder, Natalie Cole, B.B. King, Eric Clapton, Luther Vandross, Michael Jackson, Chaka Kahn, Joe Cocker, Celine Dion, Annie Lennox, Patti LaBelle and many others.

She has performed in Europe, Asia, and in the U.S. at concerts and festivals, including the *Pavarotti & Friends 2002 for Angola* concerts in Modena, Italy; the *Porretta Soul Festival*; the *Montreux Jazz Festival* in Switzerland; the *Michael Jackson & Friends* concert with Luther Vandross in Seoul, Korea and Munich, Germany; and with Japanese Jazz Saxophonist Sadao Watanabe; as well as working with the Norwegian musical group, *Dance with a Stranger*. In September 2006, Vaneese performed at the *Narni Soul Festival* in Italy and in 2009 at the Umbria and Porretta Festivals. Vaneese has also produced recordings, created vocal arrangements, and has written songs for Patti Austin, Freddie Jackson, Bob James, Larry Coryell and Melba Moore, as well as working with renowned producer Phil Ramone. In 1995, Diana Ross scored a Top Ten hit in the UK with "*One Shining Moment*," a song written by Vaneese.

In 1987 Geffen Records released *Vaneese*, which included the Top Ten R&B hit, "*Let's Talk it Over*." In 1999, Vaneese's *When My Back's Against The Wall*, a gospel/crossover record, was released on her own Peaceful Waters Music label. *Billboard Magazine* hailed the record as, "A small label masterpiece that begs for attention from savvy majors." In 2003, Vaneese released *A Woman's Love* – an R&B record that included a smooth jazz single accompanied with Vaneese's silky vocals.

In addition to her concert and studio work, Vaneese also lends her voice to characters, movie soundtracks and television, which credits include Disney's *Hercules* as the voice of Clio the Muse, Goddess of History (1997); *Anastasia* (1997); *Mighty Aphrodite* (1995); *The First Wives Club* (1996); *Everyone Says I Love You* (1996); and the Oscar-nominated *Seraglio* (2000), among others. From 1990 to 1996, Vaneese appeared as Grace the Bass on the PBS series *Shining Time Station*. Her other TV appearances include the *Late Show with David Letterman*, *Late Night with Conan O'Brien* and *NBC's Today*.

Vaneese's songs are available on iTunes and Amazon. For more information on Vaneese Thomas, view www.vaneesethomas.com.