

J.MICHAEL O'NEAL

Pianist | Producer

J.Michael O'Neal is a Los-Angeles based pianist whose sound traverses jazz, pop, and gospel with a fresh approach that blends intricate harmonies with urban-rhythmic undercurrents. His music can best be described as soulfully authentic, passionate, and imaginative. His unique talent gave him the opportunity to work with artists like James Ingram, Jon Gibson, Tyrone Wells, Peabo Bryson, Cece Winans, and Brian Duncan. His conceptual groove stirs listeners to RE-Imagine Music. J.Michael's music bridges the genre gap, fusing together diverse musical elements to create unique sounds in the music industry.

Since third grade, J.Michael knew he had a unique gift of creating unconventional, melodious sounds when he played the theme of a popular movie note-for-note at a friend's house, despite not owning a piano at his home. His mother, Sandra O'Neal, a prolific singer in the church, insisted on piano lessons. Soon after, he studied the classics of Bach, Mozart, Chopin, Schubert and Schumann with Patty Brumleve for nine more years.

He established his Gospel roots in middle school while playing at Fountain of Love Christian Center; the church founded by his mother and late father, Dr. James M. O'Neal. J.Michael's mother often sang spirituals and hymns both at church and home. His paternal grandmother, endeared as "Big Mama", had a great impact on his early Jazz development by introducing him to Wynton Kelly, Wes Montgomery and Jimmy Smith. J.Michael wanted to further his music career, and was determined to hone his skill. He would go on to receive his Bachelor of Arts in Piano Performance from the University of La Verne. His love for music and education led him to continue his education. He would later receive a full scholarship to attend Azusa Pacific University to attain his Master's in Music with an emphasis in Piano Performance (Commercial Music).

J.Michael furthered his training by studying under world-renowned instructors, such as Grammy award winners Bill Cunliffe, Ottmaro Ruiz, and Billy Childs; producer and Grammy nominee Howard McCrary; Fulbright Scholar, Dr. Stan Breckenridge; and, jazz pianist Joe Bagg. His innovative technique bridges the genre gap and defies traditional conventions. He has worked with: Dove Award Winner Dex Alexander & Tyrone Wells; Rebirth; and other artists such as: Teena Marie, Howard Hewitt, Elaine Macaluso, Keaton Simons, Emile Welman, Stephanie Mills, Marilyn McCoo, and Billy Davis, Jr.

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J.MICHAEL O'NEAL



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<http://www.JMikeOnKeys.com>

J.Michael O'Neal
JMikeonKeys@gmail.com
www.JMikeonKeys.com

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