



Claudia Carawan

Positively Soulful Music

BIOGRAPHY LONG

Claudia Carawan is an award-winning singer/songwriter, inspirational speaker and performer whose music runs deep. At the heart of Carawan's mission as an artist is a belief that music is transformative. Her music is best described as vibrant, authentic and positively soulful.

The Musician

Her independently released CDs (*Joy Rising, Fearless and Out of the Blue*) feature award-winning songs that are inspiring and thought provoking, thus making Carawan a favorite in the positive music scene. Her soulful voice has been called "goose-bump inducing" and her piano chops ranging from funky grooves to soulful ballads, are the perfect accompaniment to her soaring vocals.

The Early Years

Her love affair with music began as a young child when she discovered a beat-up Silvertone guitar in her family's basement. She soon learned that music was her passion as it became her happy obsession. While frequenting the coffeehouses and venues of her native DC area, she devoured a variety of music (in particular soul, r&b, blues and jazz). Later, Carawan studied classical voice at **Virginia Commonwealth University** but her love of soul and jazz lured her away from a career as an opera singer. While in school Carawan developed her musicianship by studying piano and alto sax--both signatures of her sound. She attended the prestigious **Jazz in July** program at **University of Massachusetts** where she learned about "music and life" from jazz legends **Max Roach, Billy Taylor & Sheila Jordan**.

Upon graduation she worked with numerous ensembles performing a wide variety of styles. She also found success in advertising, singing jingles for regional and national ad campaigns. As lead vocalist/saxophonist in **The Bluebeats**, she helped make the band a regional favorite on the east coast and was the opening act for blues legends **Delbert McClinton, Fabulous Thunderbirds and Koko Taylor**.

Positive Music

Her musical direction changed when she entered a new thought church and heard the messages of healing, inclusion and love. Carawan knew on a deep level this would be her new musical direction --to create music that combined heartfelt, positive messages with soulful execution --positively soulful music.

Inspirational Speaker

Carawan was so inspired after hearing Maya Angelou speak that she began creating **Music Lessons** (presentations that integrate story-telling, music and humor). As a speaker Carawan weaves her messages, music and humor together seamlessly into presentations for conferences, retreats, churches and professional organizations.

Workshop Facilitator and Music Director

As a workshop facilitator Carawan conducts a variety of interactive workshops on creativity and music. In addition, Carawan has also served as a music director to **Unity Christ Church of Bon Air** in Richmond, Virginia and has touched and inspired the community with her original music, powerful performances and insight.

Work with “at risk” Teens

When not on stage, Carawan serves as a music teacher and mentor to at-risk teens at a residential healing facility where she inspires students to discover and develop their creative abilities. She created a recording studio onsite for the students to explore and create original music. Carawan loves working with the hip hop generation and they have inspired her too.

She lives happily in Richmond, Virginia with her family and their faithful dog Gracie.

www.claudiacarawan.com