

Kevin Mahogany



With his gift for bebop, ballads, blues, and swinging jazz, Kevin Mahogany's talents emerged long before he was old enough to spell "record deal". "When I was a kid, music was just as important as English and math in our household" says Kansas-City-born, Kevin Mahogany. "In fact piano lessons were a grade school staple for the whole family."

By 1970 after starting on piano and moving to clarinet, 12 year-old Kevin was playing the baritone saxophone. That same year he first played professionally with Eddie Baker's "New Breed Orchestra". But it was during his senior year in high school that his true talent was discovered—singing.

When Kevin got to Baker University, he performed with various instrumental and vocal ensembles. He was allowed to form his own vocal jazz choir while at Baker. After graduating, he returned to his roots in Kansas City where Kevin attracted a huge following. All the while, Kevin was continuing to develop his own style following artist like, Lambert, Hendricks and Ross, Al Jarreau and Eddie Jefferson.

In February 1993, Kevin's debut album "Double Rainbow" hit the record stores. Its seldom-heard ballads, bop tunes and blues were met with instant acclaim. In 1995 Kevin joined with Warner Brothers and the next year released the self-titled CD, "Kevin Mahogany". "Another Time, Another Place", "My Romance", and "Portrait of Kevin Mahogany" closed out the next three years of Kevin at Warner Brothers.

After a short hiatus, Kevin returned to the scene in 2002 with Telarc records and released "Pride and Joy", a tribute to the music of the great Motown era. The shaping of these tunes became very important to Kevin. "When you listen to the artist that we respect and call the masters of jazz, they were doing the same thing, performing the music of their youth." Kevin continued, "I want to do the same, and continue the tradition."

The latest venture for Kevin Mahogany has him stretching his wings and adding the title of "entrepreneur", to his resume. He has started his own label, "Mahogany Jazz", and has two projects scheduled for release. "Kevin Mahogany -Big Band", and "To: Johnny Hartman", a tribute to the incredible vocalist of the 1940-70's.

With eleven CD's as a leader, and quite a few as a sideman, Kevin has proved to be the quintessential jazz vocalist. Newsweek describes him as "the standout jazz vocalist of his generation." New Yorker magazine writer Whitney Balliet writes, "There is little Mahogany cannot do." Says the LA TIMES, "Mahogany is one of the first truly gifted male vocalists to emerge in years."

Kevin Mahogany is unquestionably one of today's most exciting and musically adept jazz vocalists. His latest project, *Big Band*, is, as the title suggests, a foray into the big band groove, and it's a mighty successful one. **Billboard Magazine**

Kevin Mahogany, the Kansas City cyclone, would sound terrific singing in the shower or standing on his head. Mahogany is blessed with a voice that is instantly seductive—smooth as butter, sweet as honey and deep as a freshly dug well. **Jack Bowers**
All About Jazz

If the majesty of Kevin Mahogany has somehow eluded you through the dozen years and 11 albums that have accumulated since his dynamic 1993 debut, the Kansas City-born baritone's richly polished *Big Band* is an ideal introduction. For long-standing Mahogany connoisseurs, it's simply continued proof that he remains in an exalted class all his own.

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