Stevie Wonder

Songs in the Key of Life: An Exploration in Humanity through Music

By Edwin Buggage
Photos by Glenn Summers

Music for the Soul
Music at its best can touch the soul. Its words, melodies and harmonies can give voice to the essence of the human experience. Last week New Orleans was the site of a truly historic moment that illustrates this point. Musical genius and legend Stevie Wonder came to town as one of his stops on the Songs in the Key of Life Tour. It was a show that was much more than simply a music concert; it was the equivalent of seeing a head of state or spiritual leader.

After over five decades in the music business Stevie Wonder effortlessly showed what true showmanship looked like during his show here in New Orleans, aptly titled, Songs in the Key of Life.
featured hits such as Love In Need of Love Today, Sir Duke, I Wish, Pastime Paradise, As, Black Man, Isn’t She Lovely, Another Star and many others.

A Vision of Life through Music

He is a man whose music defies categories and is truly a living legend. His music embodies the timelessness of many of his contemporaries such as the late greats: Marvin Gaye, Michael Jackson, Curtis Mayfield, Bob Marley, Gil Scott-Heron and John Lennon. These individuals made music that still resonates today and Stevie Wonder is the embodiment of this time when relevant, intelligent music truly mattered.

His music is an exploration of the human experience. His songs are the soundtrack to life and are more than just personal musings but have a larger social meaning. His catalog is like a time machine that one can use to reflect on various aspects of life. When one looks at simply a few of the titles of his albums: Innervisions, Talking Book, Songs in the Key of Life, one can look at his work as an introspective look at the world through the eyes of a man who may not have sight, but has been gifted with insight that has given the world a vision of what the world is and could be if people reached their full human potential.

A Musical Messiah Bringing People Together through the Gift of Song

Stevie Wonder is a truly relevant artist who continues to be honored and revered by people spanning the globe. That was witnessed by the many different types of people who came out to see this musical genius at work. In his set he did not just play, but spoke about bringing people together. In a world today that is still filled with war, hate and misunderstanding, he embodied this sentiment in the song Black Man when he sings of people of different backgrounds who contributed to this nation and this world in the refrain, “This world was made for all men, all people.” In fact, Wonder has throughout his musical life been a humanitarian being part of projects and using his art to give voice to social causes. In his years as an artist he has songs or collaborative projects (Living for the City, Master Blaster, Higher Ground, Ebony and Ivory, We Are the World, That’s What Friends Are For, Happy Birthday) covering a range of issues from racial injustice, economic inequality, famine in Africa, decolonization in the Third World, AIDS awareness and the push to make Dr. Martin Luther King Birthday a national holiday.

Songs in the Key of Life and Music Giving the Innervision to Reach Higher Ground

Throughout his illustrious career he has won 25 Grammy’s and been honored the lifetime achievement award in addition, a concert held in his honor earlier this year with many contemporary artist performing his songs. He is a man who has won many honors and fans along his five decades in the music industry. Wonder has been given a range of awards for his music, and for his civil rights work, including induction into the Songwriters and the Rock and Roll Halls of Fame; gaining a Lifetime Achievement Award from the National Civil Rights Museum, being named one of the United Nations Messengers of Peace, and earning the highest civilian honor the Presidential Medal of Freedom from President Barack Obama in 2014. In his presentation speech before a crowd of world dignitaries, President Obama stated that Wonder’s classic 1972 album Talking Book was the very first LP he purchased with his own
Stevie Wonder's music is an exploration of the human experience.
Annual Neighborhood Development Foundation House Party

Photos by Glenn Summers

It is well known as one of the premier events of the year: The Neighborhood Development Foundation (NDF) House Party fundraiser.

House Party is the once a year fundraiser for NDF which is the leading organization that teaches homeownership education. NDF is known nationally as one of New Orleans' greatest success stories and the key to a rewarding and productive life for many low to moderate income families. Since 1986, NDF has assisted almost 4,000 residents move from renting to homeownership.

"Building assets over a lifetime that will enable you to leave an inheritance to your children. This is a dream for many working families. It's a dream that NDF has helped to make a reality for thousands of families throughout the greater New Orleans area. Renters become homeowners, landlords, developers, and investors in our community," says NDF CEO Fred Johnson.

This year’s House Party theme was “Faces of Affordability.” The Patron Party was held 6:30 p.m. Saturday, March 28, 2015 in First NBC Bank’s 3rd floor Board Room 210 Baronne Street. The Gala followed downstairs in its historic main office lobby at 7:30 p.m.
It's enough to make me take a trip to the nearest Starbucks. I'll take a latte with some truth talk.

Walter Fields is Executive Editor of NorthStarNews.com.
State Senator JP Morrell announced that he will be hosting Town Hall meetings in each parish of Louisiana Senate District 3 in preparation for the upcoming legislative session. Morrell will present his legislative agenda and solicit guidance from constituents. State agencies are also invited to participate to address constituent concerns.

Government works best when everyone is at the table. I hope all of District 3 will attend and share their priorities with me so that I can better represent them in Baton Rouge,” said Morrell.

Some distinctive components of Morrell’s legislative agenda that will presented are proposals for tougher laws against sexual assaults, programs for improved sexual education, policies for equal pay for women, expanding Medicaid in Louisiana, and responsible tax credit reform.

State Senator JP Morrell, Louisiana Senate District 3

Senator Morrell Invites You to Town Hall
Meetings Starting April 6

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