

It would be the gift of music - record albums, 45s, and the like, that would forever excite, inspire and transform an eight-year-old, Virginia born, North Carolinianly reared, middle child, Aubrey Barnes, into the virtuoso vocalist he innately expresses himself to be. His surprising gift, from his beloved Mother, was a variety of musical albums spanning diverse and distinct genres of music, including Spirituals, Gospel, Soul, Motown, R&B, Jazz, Pop, Cabaret, Choral, Arias, Orchestral and Symphonic music. This artistic, middle child, Aubrey, at 8-years of age, would eagerly listen to and devoutly learn every single song on each of the different albums and then quietly sing and perform these songs, alone, at home. A couple of years later, Aubrey would, occasionally, perform certain Pop and R&B selections, with and alongside his two brothers, all at home, "on break," while doing their weekly chores. Aubrey Barnes has been quoted as saying that those times, listening to music, singing and performing with his brothers, as very young children, would be "...eternally cherished..." by him, and that those times were "... beyond heavenly to me...!" Aubrey would use the family vacuum cleaners fully extended power cords plug - the actual part, of the power cord, that is inserted into the socket of the wall, and being at the beginning of the cord. This plug he would use, as a "make-believe" microphone, while the vacuums long power cord served for him, as the "make-believe" microphone cord, that Aubrey would stylize, in his solo home performances, stylizing after the famous singers, of the day, to whom he would assiduously watch on T.V., as they would famously and expertly handle and twirl their microphone and microphone cord, making that visual activity a part of their act! "...he is also one of the most extraordinary talents that I have ever met and he's such a joy to be around because he always brings something new and exciting to your life when you get to meet him...but you've heard him do a certain kind of music, but now he's going to do something completely different..." Jay Minor, Jazz Pianist, Band/Orchestra Leader, Teacher, Conductor

"Aubrey Barnes is a stunning vocalist and a deeply powerful performer. He will make you want to live more fully, love, laugh and cry. Hearing Aubrey sing is nothing short of receiving a spiritual transmission. He sings from such an intensely personal place that it immediately becomes universal; the audience is included, embraced and uplifted. ... Aubrey always delivers from a place of heartfelt connection and profound authenticity. Through his songs, Aubrey is...the perfect choice for change-making events. This beautiful resonance of his connects listeners with themselves and with each other, thus, creating community. He is both an excellent entertainer and a compassionate sonic healer. His energy and talents enrich a wide range of...events. ABM Vocals brings the magic — inspiring audiences in this hurting, yet still precious world." Hilary James, Hilary James Music

Asked of his vocal style, Aubrey Barnes spoke these words; "My vocal style is malleable and can shift within the song or from song to song, yet the overarching sentiment in my vocal style is the 'feeling' or 'soul' of the piece..."

Mr. Barnes' professional life is dominated by the rigors and sacrifices of self-producing his debut CD, while gigging around the tri-state area, particularly in Harlem, NY. Early reviews of some of the song selections, on his debut CD, use adjectives such as, "brilliant," "Broadway," and "sultry," to name a few, while additional comparisons are made, of Barnes, to great jazz artists like Little Jimmy Scott amongst others. "The first time I heard Mr. Barnes sing, I was amazed at the execution of the revered jazz standards and his unique interpretation of the songs. His personal development, as an artist, left an exceptionally original musical style on all of his

recordings. His evocative tone is reminiscent of little Jimmy Scott, with the soulfulness of Nat 'King' Cole...A truly great artist and performer..." Michael Giannuzzi, Artists' Manager/Agent. The release date of Mr. Barnes' debut CD is expected to be, in the Winter of 2023 or early 2024. His CD has, as its contents, beloved jazz standards, from the enormously popular and highly regarded, The Great American Songbook. Classic vocal selections from this songbook, and many other venerable sources, are being combined with Barnes' own inimitable and indelible vocal style, which is his definitive musical signature.

Mr. Barnes admits that the key element, in his band of instrumentalists, for his debut CD project, entitled, "Owens & Aubrey: Embraceable You," is his pianist. And to Barnes' own delight and reverence, his pianist is none other than the legendary veteran pianist, to the stars, the late Mr. Frank Owens, of Washington, D.C. Mr. Owens is the former pianist for many great vocal and jazz superstar creatives, including Johnny Mathis, Lena Horne and Freda Payne, naming only a few in an otherwise impressive and never-ending list of top-tier, A-list artists worldwide. Mr. Owens, also, gigs with Mr. Barnes, as his busy schedule allows. When asked about vocalist Aubrey Barnes, Mr. Owens had this to say: "Aubrey Barnes has "The Voice of Life!" He bends and shapes notes like no others. Not to mention his fabulous breath control. If he were a contestant on the T.V. program, 'The Voice,' he would blow the other singers away!" Mr. Barnes says of his next pianist, "I knew I wanted to work with Danny Mixon when he played for me at the legendary Lenox Lounge in Harlem...the subtlety of his touch on the keys intrigued me, deeply..." Mr. Mixon has played with many preeminent jazz greats, including Charles Mingus, Betty Carter and Lionel Hampton. Rounding out the trio of pianists for Barnes' debut CD is Mr. Keith Ingham. A London born jazz pianist, Ingham, who played, in the 80s, with Benny Goodman, has recorded a plethora of jazz standards for Jump Records. Mr. Ingham has recorded "Detour Ahead," with Mr. Barnes, and this writer has heard that selection and it is incomparably kinetic! Additionally, several local pianists have accompanied Mr. Barnes, in a variety of venues, in New York City, such as: Showman's, Cassandra's, Copeland's, Lenox Lounge, Don't Tell Mama, St. Nick's Pub, American Post Legion, New Harlem Bésame, Mist and many other, up and coming, and more established jazz venues throughout New York City and the tri-state area. Mr. Barnes has lived and performed in many major and smaller cities throughout the US including Washington, D.C., Nashville, Hawaii, Los Angeles and now New York City.

Aubrey Barnes, an East Carolina University Graduate with a Bachelor's Degree in music and drama, is the recipient of the "Outstanding Senior Award," from his Alma mater. The svelte and sophisticated Aubrey Barnes will sing powerful, elusive and moving, haunting and never to be forgotten songs from The Great American Songbook, and beyond, during his classic songfest, complete with his idiosyncratically affecting, and overwhelmingly masterful vocal renderings. "To see Aubrey Barnes performing is breathtaking and unnervingly sensual. Not only is his tone sublime but his phrasing is acutely personal and captivating... He is one of the most authentic and musically articulate vocalists that I have ever recorded. The most prized gems are the rarest...and Mr. Barnes, definitely, belongs in that category..." Ellen Christi, Recording Engineer and Music Programmer