

THE EBONYS

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THE EBONYS a 70's group that brought the soulful Philadelphia sounds to a nation. The original Ebonys auditioned for Philadelphia International Records and was later signed to a recording contract. The Ebonys went on to release two albums, one of which reached the top of the pop charts. In 1995 Sony Records along with Collectable Records released a CD titled "It's Forever" in the United States and Japan. In 1996 Platinum Classic Records released the 'Grove Me' CD also featuring "It's Forever". WDAS Radio Station of Philadelphia recently released a CD titled 'WDAS Classic Love Songs' and once again the hit song "It's Forever" was featured. Currently, these CD's are being played on radio stations across the country and abroad.



L-R: Smoke, Beasley, Nate, Toni

David Beasley, one of the former lead singers of the original Ebonys, was born and raised in Camden, NJ and has been making music all his life. In July of 1997 The Ebonys were reborn and included four incredible vocalists, David Beasley, William "Smoke" Howard, Nate Cephas, and Toni Calloway. A fifth vocalist, the late McKensy Crawford, joined The Ebonys as background singer to enhance their harmony. David retired from The Ebonys group in 2001 and McKensy Crawford became the lead 1st tenor and retired in Jan. 2012 and was replaced with veteran 1st tenor, Ken Chaney. Our female vocalist, Lorna Dixon retired in 2013 and Geneva "Neva" Wilkes became our only female vocalist. Nate Cephas retired in 2015 and Ray Keniebrew, our newest member singing 2nd Tenor. The Ebonys vocal dynamics will easily raise a goose bump or two as each member adds drama and drive to the group's performance on stage. Each singer has their own distinctive style and versatility that brings new life to the sound of The Ebonys. The current Ebonys are: **William "Smoke" Howard, Ken Chaney, Neva Wilks and Ray Keniebrew.**

William Howard, a native of Bristol, Tennessee, is a veteran crooner in his own right, has been entertaining all his life. William, known as "Smoke," gives the Ebonys' sound a raspy edge and soulful body. Smoke's rugged voice is part of the powerful sound that distinguishes many of the Ebonys songs. He is the co-writer of The Ebonys last released CD, in 2003, titled "That's Forever." Smoke has remained busy; he is the lead vocalist on the hit single, written and produced by Vincent Montana Jr., titled "That's What Love Does". In 2010, Smoke produced and co-wrote many of the songs on his first solo released CD entitled "Give Me Your Heart". The title song was written by Marvin & Melvin Steals. Another song from the CD titled "In The Mirror" features world-renowned Bassist Gerald Veasley.



L-R: Ken, Ray, Neva, Smoke

Ken Chaney, a talented 1st tenor who lives in the City of *Brotherly Love*. His father, a gospel soloist, his mother, a lover of Jazz and his oldest sister, a pianist influenced Ken. He studied the piano at the age of nine; and was the youngest vocalist to perform with the legendary Duke Ellington at his "Sacred Concert" at the age of thirteen. In 1972 he sang with the R&B group "The Magestics". He moved on to stage plays and the jazz club circuit. (He loves to scat!) Performing as a solo artist and group singer with many known producers such as, Norman Harris, Sam Reed, Eugene (Lambchops) Curry, and many more. He recorded commercials for MAP (Modern Audio Prod.), Sigma Sound, Queen Village, Alpha Studios & many others. Ken's vocal range is from baritone to first tenor.

Neva Wilks, lives in South Jersey and is our only female of the group. She's sings in various music genres, R&B, Pop, Rock, Gospel, Country and Jazz. Neva has a smooth, soulful, fiery, jazzy R&B voice. Her vocal range and versatility can be compared to Natalie Cole, Gladys Knight, Tina Turner & Chaka Khan. Her sultry voice, smile, beauty and embracing style captivates the audience and enhances the sound and look of The Ebonys. She amplifies the Ebonys' stage presence with Class and Elegance.

Ray Keniebrew, is our newest member, and was raised in Trenton, NJ. Ray has been in the music business for many years. He sings Lead, 1st and 2nd tenor. Ray has done his share of singing and performing with various local bands, i.e. "Once Again Band". He sang background for "Christopher Williams" and has performed with recording Artists: "Instant Funk", "Black Ivory", "The Futures", "Melba Moore", "Evelyn Champagne King" and "Colonel Abrams".



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Sing About Life
That's Forever
What Did You Do Today

Philadelphia International
Buddha Records
Swing City Recording Enterprise
Swing City Recording Enterprise

Single releases & Albums by The Ebonys

It's Forever
You're the Reason Why
Making Love Ain't No Fun
Christmas Is In The Air

Philadelphia International
Philadelphia International
Buddha Records
Swing City Recording Enterprise