



THE FABULOUS "LADIES OF SKYY"-BENITA, DOLORES & DENISE

The 2015 G.E.M.A. Foundation Ambassadors "The Ladies of SKYY"...

OCTOBER-NOVEMBER-DECEMBER 2015

The Fabulous Ladies of SKYY

By Dolores Dauphine

The original sister/trio vocalists, Denise, Dolores and Benita, have emerged in the new millennium to bring back that unique sound of SKYY with sassy vocals, funky bass lines and electrifying guitar licks which are still satisfying audiences today. Their most sellable hits "Call Me" and "Here's To You" have brought them worldwide acclaim. The tune "Call Me" was selected as the sound track to the film "Beauty Shop" starring artist/actress "Queen Latifah". The flavor of the SKYY era is back...with the "Ladies of SKYY"!!!

The "Ladies of SKYY" have created a stage show that is reminiscent and contemporary. Through the use of original recordings and updated remixes, they have the unique ability to present a totally exciting "live" performance. Their concerts have garnered appeal from both old school and new school audiences. Whether the event is in a large concert venue or in an intimate club setting, the "Ladies of SKYY" will tailor their live presentation for your pure enjoyment. These ladies were recognized and honored by The G.E.M.A. Foundation in

2014. They received the **2014 Golden Mic Honors Tribute Award** and citations for their outstanding contributions in the educational, cultural and entertainment arts. They also performed at **The Grand Opera House** in Wilmington, Delaware where the audience had the opportunity to appreciate their talents, performance and enthusiasm. The "Ladies of SKYY" were selected and honored this year as the **2015 G.E.M.A. Ambassadors**.

The "Ladies of SKYY", as the **2015 G.E.M.A. Ambassadors** will have the opportunity to share the G.E.M.A. mission with their audiences, fans, and function as the foundation's spokesperson on issues that concern women in the educational, cultural and entertainment arts. They will be participating in this coming year's "Women's Forum" entitled "Making The Right Impression" with other veteran performing artists' and industry professionals. This event is scheduled for October 14th, 2016 at **The Claridge Hotel**, in Atlantic City, New Jersey. For more information contact the G.E.M.A. office at 215-416-9660 or visit their website at www.thegemafoundation.org.



Anita Ward

2015 G.E.M.A. Co-Chair 🎵

Anita Ward is known for her hit "Ring My Bell" has been selected by the G.E.M.A. Board of Governors as this year's Co-Chair of "The Golden Mic Honors Tribute Awards Ceremony".

2015 G.E.M.A. Chair 🎵



Carol Williams

Carol Williams, former Salsoul Recording artist has been selected by the G.E.M.A. Board of Governors as this year's Chair of "The Golden Mic Honors Tribute Awards".



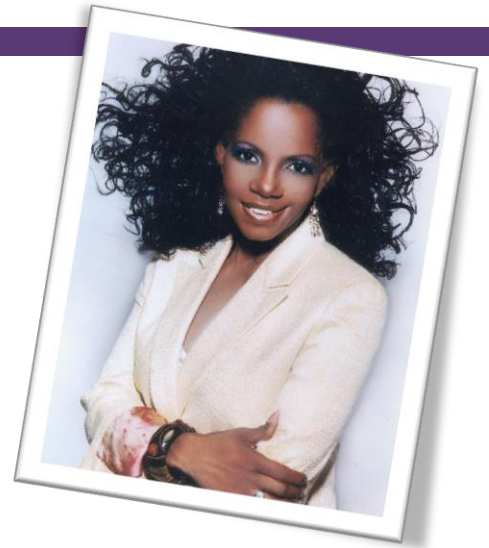
Melba Moore, is one of the 2015 G.E.M.A. Golden Mic Honorees who graced **The Prince Theater** stage to perform her signature tunes like "**Lean On Me**" and "**This Is It**" to a vibrant crowd. The fabulous Classic American R&B singer/actress Melba Moore is a 4 time Grammy Nominee and the winner of the **1970 Tony Award** for her exceptional performance as an actress in the Broadway Musical "**Purlie**".

Ms. Moore has performed as the lead actress in the musical entitled "**Hair**" comprised by Galt McDermot.



♪ **TONY AWARD WINNER:**
MELBA MOORE

2015 G.E.M.A. Golden Mic Honors Tribute Award
Honoree Recipient – Classic Veteran And
Legendary American R&B Singer/Actress...



Melba Moore has appeared in her own television show along with **Clifton Davis**. Her long list of several hit album projects which featured some of her best-selling hits "**This Is It**", "**Lean On Me**", "**Love's Comin' At Ya**", "**Keepin' My Lover Satisfied**", "**Love Me Right**", "**Livin' For Your Love**" and "**When You Love Me Like This**". In 2003, Moore was featured in the film **The Fighting Temptations**, which starred Cuba Gooding, Jr. and Beyoncé Knowles. In 2006 she toured with American Idol star Diana DeGarmo in the musical **Brooklyn**.

Other TV series, movies, and voiceovers for animated features to which **Melba Moore** has contributed her talents are **ABC Afterschool Specials** (1987), **The Cosby Show** (1988), **Mother's Day** (1989), **All Dogs Go to Heaven** (1989), **Monsters** (1989), **Def by Temptation** (1990), **Mathnet** (1992), **Square One TV** (1992), and **Loving** (1992). **Melba Moore** has received honorary degrees in Humanities from Florida A&M University and from her alma mater, Montclair State.



2015 G.E.M.A. Golden Mic Honors
Tribute Award Honoree-Sarah Dash

Sarah Dash - The One Woman Show

By Gigi Horne

Sarah Dash, has sung with some of the greatest names in pop, rock and R&B – try The Rolling Stones, Alice Cooper, The Marshall Tucker Band, Laura Nyro, The O'Jays, Wilson Pickett and Bo Diddley among others. She has appeared on shows with hundreds of renowned recording artists – from Keith Richards to Stevie Wonder. She is, of course, a founding member of Patti Labelle & The Bluebelles, morphing into Labelle in the '70s. **Sarah's** own hits with the dance music classics "Sinner Man" and "Low Down Dirty Rhythm." In more recent times, her 2007 appearance in San Francisco's 'Teatro Zinzanni' theatrical production drew rave reviews.

She is quite simply, a soul survivor. As a member of **LaBelle**, her career has allowed her to share her talents with millions of fans all over the world. As a solo artist she has toured with Keith Richards and when done she signed on for a world tour all over in the European market.

Sarah Dash was delighted to receive her 2015 Golden Mic Honors Tribute Award. The G.E.M.A. GMH Tribute Awards Luncheon Ceremony took place at The Deep Blue Grill Restaurant in Wilmington, De. again this year. **Sarah Dash** performed on Saturday, at The Prince Theater in Philadelphia, Pa. along with the other honorees.



Sarah Dash is known for her colorful stage performances, lively vocals and rhythmic conversations. She is truly an outstanding creative performer, author and public speaker. She is a true living legend.

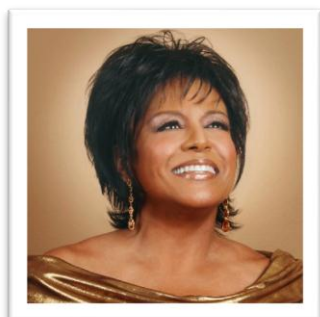


JEAN CARNE – CLOSER THAN CLOSE



Outstanding Artist & Vocal Coach

Legendary International R&B/Jazz/Dance & Pop Vocalist **Jean Carne** was honored as a 2015 GMH Honoree. She took center stage on Saturday evening singing "Closer Than Close" along with M.D. Norman Connors who directed the Star Ship Orchestra at The Prince Theater, in Philadelphia. What a wonderful evening it was to see so many veteran performers all on one stage who made a difference in our culture and social awareness.



Scherrie Payne -Vocalist/Educator & Playwright

Scherrie Payne is officially recognized as The Supremes' final lead singer, and is featured on many of their hits including, "He's My Man" and the Supremes' final top 40 recording, "I'm Gonna Let My Heart Do The Walking". **Scherrie** was the lead singer of the group Glass House. A talented writer and performer on the Invictus Record Label she co-wrote the tune "Crumbs Off The Table". As a solo artist her hits includes "I'm Not In Love" and "One Night Only". **Scherrie** is affectionately known as the "Little Lady With The Big Voice". She brought her superb vocals and dynamic stage presence to the Supremes in 1973. She continues to perform with Lynda Laurence and Joyce Vincent as The FLOS. **Scherrie Payne**, 2015 G.E.M.A. Golden Mic Honors Honoree.



*The Power Diva, vocalist/actress, songwriter and music publisher **Jeanie Tracy** started singing in the church and moved on to sing with **Sylvester** and **The Weather Girls**. As a solo artist she has an enormous list of credits for her legendary performances in theater, music and electronic dance music. Congrats, **Jeanie Tracy** on being a 2015 GMH Honoree. Thanks for performing the tune "Last Dance". It was awesome!*

Women Who Are Making A Difference...

By Dolores Dauphine

MARILYN MARSHAL

Educator/Singer/Musician & Humanitarian

Marilyn Marshall, Vocalist/ Educator/ Musician & Humanitarian – a passionate singer of love songs released her new CD project titled "Just Us Two" earlier this year.

Marilyn enjoyed gracing the stage with her R&B/Jazz tunes for her live audiences who knew her performances would be exciting and memorable. When she wasn't singing she was teaching. As an educator and board member for the Pemberton Township School District she really made an impact.

She is the Founder and Program Director of the "Hold On To Education Foundation" which provides scholarships and school supplies for the youth in Wilingboro, Burlington City, and Mount Holly. She is a real gem.



Joan Meyers Brown: Choreographer

International Choreographer, Founder of The Philadelphia Dance Company, (PhilaDanco) and The Philadelphia School of Dance Arts. Ms. Brown has made a significant impact with her contributions to the national and international art communities. She also founded the International Conference of Black Dance Companies in 1988. She is a Distinguished Visiting Professor at the



University of the Arts in Philadelphia, which bestowed upon her an honorary Doctorate of Fine Arts; is a member of the dance faculty at Howard University in Washington, DC; and has been awarded an honorary Doctorate in Humane Letters from Urdinus College in Collegeville, Pa. We salute Ms. Brown on being awarded the G.E.M.A. 2015 Golden Mic Honors Tribute Award Honoree.

Norman Connors 2015 Music Director

Norman Connors

2015 G.E.M.A. Ambassador

By M.L. Cedenio

NORMAN CONNORS THE STAR SHIP ORCHESTRA

Norman Connors current CD release is available on iTunes & Amazon – "The Best of Norman Connors"

BOOKING INFO:

Contact: captainconnors@yahoo.com

A formally trained jazz improviser turned platinum-selling recording artist, drummer/composer **Norman Connors** was a pioneer in the convergence of progressive R&B and jazz, thereby creating a fusion that appealed to intellectuals and romantics alike. He is best known for his long list of classic hits, among them "You Are My Starship," "Valentine Love," "This Is Your Life," "Betcha By Golly Wow," "Invitation," and "I'm Your Melody."

Connors proved himself an influential force behind the scenes as a major studio wizard, mastering tracks for a variety of different performers. **Connors**, sometimes called the "jazzy Quincy Jones," discovered and nurtured the career of the late *Phyllis Hyman*, transforming the caramel-voiced singer into a signature diva during the 1980s. That same decade also saw a string of hits from another **Connors** protégé, *Michael Henderson*, namely the seminal "In the Nighttime" and the radio funk staple "Wide Receiver." Working mainly as a producer throughout this period, Connors became more visible again in the 1990s, though primarily as an adult contemporary/crossover artist.

In 1972, **Connors** signed as solo artist with the Buddah Records subsidiary Cobblestone. He recorded and released his debut as a leader, *Dance of Magic*, that same year. Produced by *Skip Drinkwater* and *Dennis Wilen*, the album featured such players as *Herbie Hancock*, *Stanley Clarke*, *Ron Carter*, *Hubert Laws*, *Gary Bartz*, *Carlos Garnett*, and *Dee Dee Bridgewater*.



Connors found greater successes on the R&B charts, thanks in large part to the talents of vocalists like Michael Henderson, Jean Carne and Phyllis Hyman. The drummer's mainstream popularity first took an upward swing with his 1975 album *Saturday Night Special*. It featured the Top 100/number 10 soul hit "Valentine Love," a collaboration with singer and songwriter Michael Henderson. In 1976, **Connors** broke into the Top 30 with the Grammy-nominated "You Are My Starship," sung by *Bridgewater*, from the platinum-selling album of the same name produced by Drinkwater and Jerry Schoenbaum.

Celebrating 50 Years – The Man Who Made A Difference!!!



The King of Latin Soul
JOE BATAAN

Mrs. Bataan, Alicia, Joe & Olivia



Joe Bataan was influenced by two musical styles: the Latin boogaloo and African American doo-wop. **Joe Bataan** released "Gypsy Woman" in 1967 (the title track is a Latin dance cover of "Gypsy Woman" by The Impressions). He would, in full, release eight original titles for Fania which included the gold-selling *Riot!* In 1973, he helped coin the



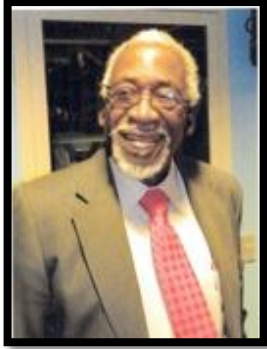
phrase "Salsoul", lending its name to his first post-Fania album. Along with the Cayre brothers, Kenneth, Stanley, and Joseph, **Joe Bataan** co-founded the Salsoul Record Label, though later sold out his interest. He recorded three albums for Salsoul and several singles, including "Rap-O Clap-O" from 1979 which became an early hip hop hit. In 2005, Bataan broke his long hiatus with the release of *Call My Name*, a well-received album recorded for Spain's Vampsoul Label.

In the 2006 video game, *Driver Parallel Lines*, featured **Joe Bataan's** song "Subway Joe" was included in the project soundtrack. In early 2009, **Joe Bataan** was featured in the Kenzo Digital-produced "beat cinematic" "City of God's Son".

Joe Bataan was featured as the narrator of the story, playing the part of an older Nas reflecting upon his youth in the street with cohorts **Jay-Z**, **Ghost face Killah**, **Biggie** and **Raekwon**.

Joe Bataan received the prestigious G.E.M.A. Golden Mic Honors Award and performed at The Prince Theater in Philadelphia.

The Men Who Made A Difference In The Educational, Entertainment & Cultural Arts



Philadelphia Clef Club or Performing Arts- Don Gardner, GM

Don Gardner, American Rhythm and Blues drummer/vocalist. Gardner started out as a professional musician in 1947 while still at school. By 1953 **Gardner** had formed his own group, the **Sonotones**, but teamed up with **Dee Dee Ford** in the early 1960's to have his biggest successes. Their biggest hit was "**I Need Your Lovin'**".

Don Gardner is a man who loves Jazz and that love brought him to the Philadelphia Clef Club of Jazz & Performing Arts. He has served in a number of positions during his tenure at the Philadelphia Clef Club which included President, Operations Manager, and Facilities Manager. Now, Don Gardner is the GM and doing a fine job for all the jazz musicians and students.



Deverne Williams: Music Director, Artist Manager, Musician & Performing Artist.

RADIO PERSONALITY: CARL HELM



Remembering Carl Helm

Carl Helm, former WDAS-FM radio personality, vocalist, concert producer and community advocate was truly surprised and delighted to receive the 2015 G.E.M.A. Golden Mic Honors Award. He is known for his mellow conversation and breaking new music over the air waves. **Carl Helm** worked with Georgie Woods, Doug "Jocko" Henderson and Jimmy Bishop, who were all veteran personalities at WDAS-FM when Unity Broadcasting owned the radio station.

These radio personalities were an important group of men who were responsible for bringing in the greatest R&B talent to Philadelphia when it was more challenging for artists' to perform in the venues of the city. This group of men also helped to make the **Uptown Theater** well known on the east coast with Motown artists like the Temptations, Supremes, Gladys Knight & The Pips, Stevie Wonder and a host of others.

Philadelphia International artists' also graced the stage of the **Uptown Theater** groups like Patti LaBelle & The Bluebells, Intruders, Delfonics, and Harold Melvin & The Blue Notes. **Carl Helm** is also known for his smooth melodic background vocals on some of the biggest hits from the Philadelphia International Record Label. Carl Helm is a living legend who is still making a difference today.

Deverne Williams 2015 Music Director

The man of the hour who opened the show with his band, The Vintage Soul Band paying tribute to the Philadelphia Sound. He and his band played for Anita Ward, Jeanie Tracy, Joe Bataan, Carol Williams, Marilyn Marshall and Mara Justine.



Al Magliano, a man with a passion for Disco and R&B music. He is a legendary Disco DJ, Board Member of The Legends of Vinyl, MC and Legends of Vinyl Hall of Famer. Al was a former working DJ who worked at The Playground and Envoy East in New York. This year was simply marvelous for Al who is a 2015 G.E.M.A. Golden Mic Honoree.

When he isn't working the stage as the MC or interviewing artists, he is working in the financial arena at Met Life Investments.

Philadelphia Councilman David Oh, Minority Whip- 2015 G.E.M.A. Global Award Honoree.



An outstanding civic servant who started a free legal aid program while in college. He also organized Governor Tom Ridge's trade mission to South Korea, developed the Philly Nights Arts Project for upcoming new artists. He is a mover and shaker in creating additional educational, entertainment and cultural arts outlets for Philadelphians.

Ladies of the year - Ladies of SKYY....

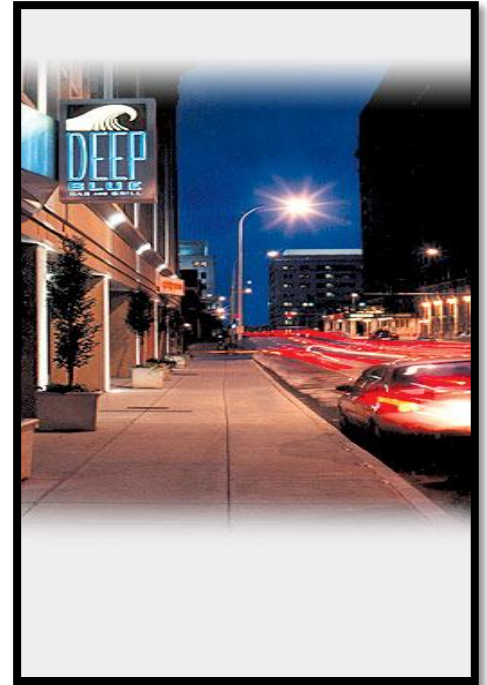


Yes, these Ladies of SKYY are the 2015 G.E.M.A. Ambassadors. These charming ladies are interested in helping the next generation of young artists understand the business of music, film, video and performing on stage. They currently work with the youth in Newark and Jersey City. They are mentors in their own home state and other communities around the world. Their message is education first; learn

while you earn and then focus on discipline which comes next in order to sustain what has been learned. The Ladies of SKYY are real troopers and their professionalism is seen not just on the stage but off stage as well.

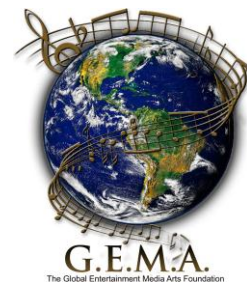
The G.E.M.A. Foundation realized early that the Ladies of SKYY were the right candidates for being Ambassadors for this non-profit organization. The mission of the G.E.M.A. Foundation matched well with the Ladies of SKYY's platform and their educational and cultural activism.

Keep your eyes on the Ladies of SKYY, they're currently working on new music and a music video for their special CD project due to be released early in 2017. Nothing is stopping these ladies. Their manager Austin Wilkinson keeps things moving in a positive direction for their creative expansion and development. For bookings: Contact Austin Wilkinson @ www.ladiesofskyy.com



The 2015 G.E.M.A. Foundation Ambassadors "The Ladies of SKYY"...

The G.E.M.A. Foundation extends our thanks and gratitude to all our sponsors, supporter, donors, volunteers, venues, and staff for helping us make this year's event a successful production.





The finale included the fabulous L-R Sarah Dash, Carol Williams, Scherrie Payne, Anita Ward and Jeanie Tracy on stage at The Prince Theater in Philadelphia. These veteran classic artists are still making an impact on stages all over the world.

This was truly "A Night of Beautiful Voices" a creative and cultural art stage production of superb talent and skill. It was rhythmic and high energy. The audience appreciated and was entertained by classic songs which are still in demand today.

Bravo Ladies, bravo.....!!!



Celebrating The Best Of Veteran Classic Artistry!!!