

# VANESSA CLARKE



Vanessa Rolle-Clarke has devoted most of her life to ministry and the advancement of the kingdom of God. Having been in music ministry for the past 27 years, Vanessa is an accomplished singer, journalist, published author and freelance writer. She was mentored at the age of 15 by the late Kevan Mckenzie and Dillon “D-Mac” Mckenzie, as well as such notables in gospel music as Allison Mason-Rolle, Mark Cartwright, and Miriam Knowles.

Today, she is also a very popular radio personality at the Broadcasting Corporation of the Bahamas in Freeport, Grand Bahama, where she hosts The Morning Glory Show where she is known as Divine Lady.

She made history in 1996 when she became the very first winner of the Bahamas Gospel Music Marlin Awards for Best Female Vocalist and the Coral Award in the same category at the Bahamas Musicians and Entertainers Union Awards that same year.

In January 2005, Vanessa won The People’s Choice Award at the Cacique Awards for the Junkanoo song Hold On To Jesus, along with her musical colleagues in Da FAM – Tamika Smith, Kenyatta Taylor, and Rocky Solomon.

The group also won the 2006 Marlin Award for Best Junkanoo Vocal Performance of the Year, and participated in Bobby Jones’ International Music conference held in Miami, in Dec. 2004. As a member of Da FAM, she also appeared on the Word Network as well as Black Entertainment Television (BET).

Vanessa is a founding member of the Seventh Day Adventist gospel sensation Harmonious Praise - where she remained a member for nearly 12 years. She wrote, produced and arranged the single "Due Season", which was released by Harmonious Praise in December 2004. This group won the 2006 Marlin Award for Best Contemporary Vocal Performance for the song Due Season and in December 2005 made history when they were announced the winners of The Bahamas Ministry of Tourism's 1st Annual Choir Fest.

Vanessa was also a featured lead soloist with another one of the Bahamas' top gospel groups, Shaback. She won the 2006 Caribbean Gospel Music Marlin Award for Best Praise and Worship Recording along with this group for the song Jesus, I Love You.

She has had the opportunity to minister in places such as Berrien Springs, Michigan; Chicago; Huntsville, Alabama; North Carolina; Jamaica; throughout Florida, including Naples; Perrine; Delray Beach; Orlando; Tallahassee, the Turks and Caicos Islands, Cayman Islands as well as various Family Islands including Andros, Exuma, Long Island, Grand Bahama, and Abaco.

Vanessa is a journalist by profession and has been in the field for the past 19 years, having worked at the Nassau Guardian as a news reporter/ Lifestyles editor; The Tribune, News Reporter; and Jones Communications Network, News Reporter. She also worked as on the very first voices on Grand Bahama's first gospel radio station, Dove 103.7 fm and is a contributing writer for the Bahamasair magazine *Up & Away*, having written the cover story for its re-launch which featured NBA star, Rick Fox. She is the only Bahamian journalist who interviewed famed attorney, the late Johnny Cochran and she also had the privilege of interviewing celebrities like Michael Jordan, Kirk Franklin, Blair Underwood among others, and also Bahamian musical legend Ronnie Butler.

On January 1, 2018, Vanessa released her long anticipated solo single, Like the Dew and is in the process of completing her first full solo album, having released singles over the years. Like the Dew earned 6 nominations at the Prayze Factor Awards which were held in Atlanta in September 2018. Vanessa was also awarded a Lifetime Achievement Award at the Image Awards for her 28 years in gospel music ministry in The Bahamas. Her first book, Ready for Repositioning was published in the summer of 2014 on Amazon.com and her second book is slated for release later this year.

Vanessa is married to the charming, Volare Clarke and they have two beautiful daughters, V'ajha and V'lori.