

# SHEANA ELLIOTT



If there is one word that sums up the heart of Sheana Elliott, it's worship. A worshiper for most of her life, she desires intimate communion with the Lord. Combine that passion with a sweet voice and a gift to hear songs from Heaven and you have the music ministry of Sheana Elliott. A worship leader, psalmist and ordained minister, Sheana's love for her God is clearly evident on her new release, "Best Me". The song is the second single release from the artist ready to spread her musical wings with her upcoming CD dropping in late 2017.

Sheana's musical journey started in Norwalk, Connecticut. Her mother sang frequently and so did Sheana. As a matter of fact, she and her brothers would make up songs and do concerts right there in their living room. Faith was a

strong component of Sheana's upbringing as well because in addition to being a singer, her mother was also a pastor. As a PK (Preacher's Kid), Sheana was regularly in church, singing, teaching Sunday school and even preaching a time or two.

As her relationship with God grew, her musical talents grew, too, strongly influenced by her music teacher, Mrs. Lupus. A natural introvert, Sheana needed a little encouragement to step to the mic, but that changed while in high school. She joined a singing group called BASIC (Brothers and Sisters in Christ). The ensemble's forte was Gospel music and her experience with the group expanded her musical horizons. Not only were her ears opened to a different style of music, but her heart was opened as well.

"It was while I was in BASIC that my relationship with God became real," she shares. "Praise and worship became real and I found my identity in Christ. It was there that I realized that music ministry was what I was created to do." While singing lead vocals, she saw how people were being moved by the ministry. She began to understand the precious gift that the Lord had given her. It was lifechanging. Later on, she joined a group called NIA and was a member between 2007 to 2010. During her time with the group, she co-wrote several songs that made up their contemporary Gospel sound.

The group BASIC gained some notoriety locally and opened up for artists such as Shirley Caesar, John P. Kee and CeCe Winans. Her time with BASIC was a training ground for her future role as worship leader. She served as a Worship Leader at Grace Baptist Church in Norwalk, CT, followed by 16 years as Music Director and Worship Leader at New Vision International Ministries in Bridgeport, CT. Her time at New Vision helped to cultivate and shape her worship style and ministry. As a member of the praise team, she had an opportunity to open up for Gospel great Donnie McClurkin. After a prompting from the Lord, she resigned from her position and began to pursue a solo music ministry in 2015. Shortly after the transition, Sheana began receiving numerous songs, tracks that will ultimately become her debut release.



One of the first songs she received is called “Best Me”. It’s a tune that many of her fans love and it’s one that’s very close to Sheana’s heart. The song is literally a prayer. Sheana says, “I was praying around 2AM in the morning,” she recalls. “I said to God, ‘I just want to be better. I want to do better. I don’t want to waste what you’ve given me. I want to get it right today and I want to be what you want me to be,’” she says. In a period of brokenness, God gave her a beautiful song. With a soft and captivating melody, “Best

Me” finds the songstress ministering powerfully with her soothing soprano voice. It’s a ballad that Sheana hopes others will relate to. “I want believers to know that every day is a new day, a day with fresh mercies,” she says. The song is a follow-up to the first track she released entitled, “With All I Have”. The festive, Latin-infused praise song showcases a celebratory side of the singer. The up-tempo track is an exciting tune where Sheana tells listeners she’s praising Him “with all she has”.

The project will be produced by Sheana’s partner in ministry and in life, Chris Elliott. Together they have been serving in ministry for many years. Married for 24 years, they are the parents of three children. They both count Bishop Derek Calhoun and Pastor Dexter Upshaw Jr. of New Vision International Ministries and Bishop Vaughn McLaughlin of Potter’s House Ministries in Jacksonville, FL, as key to their growth in ministry. Whether at her home church or on the road or performing on programs such as the Bobby Jones Show, it all comes back to worship. Sheana Elliott says, “Worship should be the air we breathe and the air we exhale. It’s life. It’s our connection to the Life Source. We live, move and have our being because of God. If we let it, worship should be the thing that empowers us, fuels us, drives us, speaks through us and sings through us.”