

UNIVERSAL XPRESSION



From the heart of the Caribbean and Africa comes Universal Xpression one of the most versatile, authentic and entertaining Caribbean show band in the United States. This Detroit based sensation stays true to its mission by emanating a variety of music, original and cover. You are whisked away on a sweet, melodious and danceable escapade of rhythms like Reggae, Soca, Zouk and African. Their immense musical talents, rich backgrounds and over fifteen years of touring has enabled a most envied style and groove likening them to Morgan Heritage, Byron Lee and Burning Flames in one solid band with a multigenerational and multinational appeal.

This awesome six-member group features the talents and creativity of prolific songwriter, arranger and energetic showman Richard 'Richie B' Parris on keyboards, lead and background vocal. Also on keyboards, lead vocals and background is the Impersonator and crooner, Walter (Melloman) Barbee. Keeping the pulse is the naturally gifted and flamboyant Noel Parris on drums. Coloring the front line the sultry songstress Kelli Stargill on Lead Vocals. Complementing the rhythm section, is the amazing Avi Kayne with his nifty strums, solos and awesome leads. The Genius Oliver (Pluto) Mensah solidifies the foundation with his remarkable feel, quick fingers and flair on the bass and lead vocals.

Performance Highlights:

Universal Xpression has shared stages with such great Caribbean international performers as Percy Sledge, Beenie Man, Shaggy, Luciano, Calypso Rose, Mighty Sparrow, Arrow, Burning Spear, The Manhattans, Maxi Priest and Wayne Wonder

Fox Theater, Campus Martius,
Hart Plaza, MAAH & DIA - Detroit, MI

Caribana, Toronto, CA
Festival of Life, Chicago
The Wild Hare, Chicago
McCormick Center, Chicago

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What Others are Saying:

"You guys are amazing" says Calypso Rose

"Phenomenal to hear different genres played so well" Says Louis Farrakhan

"Wonderful way to end a festival, you all Rocked"
says Engia Kai of Afro World Fest

Accomplishments:

'Best Live Music' for nine consecutive years in the Detroit Carnival Parade.

'Best Live Music' Mecca Parade, San Francisco.

Release of fifteen excellent albums of original music.

In 1997 had the number 1 and 2 Best Sellers in the Virgin Islands and Album of the Week on WAVS radio in Miami, Florida.

From the Christmas on the Beach album, 'Santa Baby' was also Number 1 in 1997.

In 1999, the single 'Meow' was number 1, and was featured for four weeks on BBC Radio in England and 'Cest' si bon' was number 2 in the Virgin Islands.