

## MUSICAL RESUME

**DONALD COX**  
816-763-2841

### **MUSICAL SKILL:**

Pianist/Vocalist

Donald Cox is a consummate entertainer who has been displaying his diverse musical skills since 1957, when at the tender age of 13 he made his professional debut. Don's first recording dates in 1963 resulted in the release of "I Just Can't Win" and "What Can You Do For Me" on Chess Records.

Early in his career, "Big Don" as he is affectionately called, aligned himself with such notables as the late great Walter "Jr." Chism, Thomas "Tootie" Gadson James Gadson and the late Melvin "Donnie" Webb.

Subsequently as his skills were honed and his dues were paid, his groups were either the opening act or the back up band for such headliners as Eartha Kitt, West Montgomery, Dizzy Gillespie, Ted Taylor, Al Green, Little Junior Parker and others.

Don is a poised and polished musician whose musical skills are as much at home in a mood provocative solo setting as they are in a full piece orchestral engagement. As a pianist "Big Don" is renowned for his delicate phrasings and spacious chording that pacify even the most fastidious soloists quest for space to execute their improvisational explorations.

Don studied arrangement and orchestration under the tutelage of the late Professor Willie Rice and did vocal arrangements for the Sinceres who later became Mo-Town Record artists, The Bloodstones.

His most recent arrangement skills can be evidenced on the track, "Never Give Up on Love" From the CD and cassette of the same title under the leadership of guitarist and entrepreneur Clarence "Sonny" Kenner.

Don has performed, annually, in the 18th and Vine Street Cultural Jazz Festival with such luminaries as Jay Mc Shann, Claude "Fiddler" Williams, Jimmy Witherspoon, Stanley Turrentine, as well as with local talents Ahmad Allaadeen, David "Daahoud" Williams, The McFadden Brothers, Milt Able, Carmell Jones and Kevin Mahogany.

### **HIGHLIGHTS :**

- Performed for 6,000 delegates at the League of Cities Convention and for Al Gore, the Honorable Vice President.
- Caribbean Tours: Performances on the Mardi Gras Liner for Carnival Cruise Ltd and the Royal Caribbean lines.
- European tours: Performances in Amsterdam, Holland; Frankfort, Germany; Brussels, Belgium and London, England.
- Toured with Roy Ayers for the Marriott Hotel Chain. Performances at the Marriott Hotel the last five years as a "host band" for the annual fundraiser of the American Cancer Society.
- Performance at the Holiday Inn Crown Plaza Hotel in downtown Paris on fabulous St. Germaine Street
- Privately performed for the legendary Charlie "Yardbird" Parker's widow Chan Parker at her chateau located on the outskirts of Paris.
- Warm-up act for HBO star & renowned entertainer Sinbad's Kansas City Tour at the

Midland Theater.

- Work at the Intercontinental Hotel
- Performed at the Rib Fest