

# MARCUS ANDERSON



One of the premiere saxophonists in the world, Marcus Anderson is not only a sought after solo artist, with eight albums to date, who performs to audiences all over the world, and who accompanies other great artists such as CeeLo Green and Judith Hill, but he is also known as being a featured saxophonist with Prince's New Power Generation. In addition to being a sax maestro, Anderson also plays flute, sings, writes, dances, produces and arranges music.

Anderson has played and been featured in such iconic festivals such as the Essence Music Festival, Catalina Island JazzTrax Festival, Seabreeze Jazz Festival, Capital Jazz Festival, Montreux Jazz Festival, the Curacao North Sea Jazz Festival, and more. Watching Marcus Anderson perform is akin to no other live experience. The tremendous musicianship Anderson displays in-person is matched only by his energetic, charismatic and passionate showmanship. Anderson's magnetic stage persona and tremendous enjoyment performing is undeniable. Anderson makes the stage his musical playground.

His recordings are heavily influenced by an eclectic array of artists from the Motown sound of Marvin Gaye, Michael Jackson, The Temptations, and Smokey Robinson to Prince, the Bee Gees and Maroon 5. This is further reflected in his recent album, "Marcus Anderson Xperience...M.A.X. Live in Concert" which is his tenth anniversary limited edition CD. It not only comprises amazing music, on the second CD of the two CD set Marcus provides the background to each of the songs featured and how he came to the musical space he is currently in.

His latest two CD's transcend musical boundaries and will bring fans to a place of quiet, peace, and euphoria. *My Inspiration (2016)*, is Anderson's first solo inspirational project. Anderson, who has played with musical spiritual greats such as Luther Barnes and "ghost-played" on numerous other charting gospel artist projects, desired the heartfelt project to take listeners on a musical journey through traditional Christian roots, contemporary praise and worship and soul-inspired musical renderings. Anderson wrote and included two heartfelt songs dedicated to the love for his two daughters' Karsen and Lalia. The inspirational CD should appeal to all audiences and provides listeners with an invitation to become lost in every note on this continuous spiritual journey.

*AND Coffee™ (2015)*, is an ode to and for coffee lovers, celebrating the launch of Anderson's new coffee brand of the same name ([www.ANDproducts.net](http://www.ANDproducts.net)). The song titles and moods of each song correspond to the flavorful tastes, aromas and emotions that each of the various coffee flavors in AND Coffee's selections reflect, from mild to passionate to bold. The CD is available for sale with or without purchasing coffee, although audiences would be missing out on the full bodied, rich and tasty beverages that have become synonymous with the quality of Anderson's brand and pair well with his musical choices. Why coffee? Anderson explains, "Coffee is a beverage enjoyed all over the world. People share the experience of drinking a cup of Joe with a stranger and begin to relate to one another. Mutual appreciation of music has the same kind of effect on people. I love being a part of products that bring us all together."

A son of South Carolina, Anderson was introduced to jazz by his father when very young and became a passionate student of music and the arts. The youngest of seven, Anderson grew up performing and singing in church with his older brothers. Anderson's family recognized his talent as a musical prodigy when he was introduced to the saxophone at age twelve. Just a few years later, he became a member of the All-State High School Jazz Ensemble for South Carolina. After graduation, Anderson studied jazz at North Carolina Central University. There he was a member of the program's world renowned Jazz Ensemble directed by Dr. Ira Wiggins. He studied with Branford Marsalis, Dr. Ira Wiggins and Gospel saxophonist Donald Hayes for several years, achieving many accolades along the way. He received the Chancellor's Award three years running, and performed for Hillary Clinton and Jesse Jackson, amongst other dignitaries. Anderson was a member of the HBCU All-Star Jazz Ensemble as 1st Tenor Sax for three successive years. In 2005, Anderson released his debut album *My Turn*, filled with romantic ballads and jazz grooves. He continued his climb to success and in 2009, at the age of 24, Anderson's breakthrough into contemporary jazz circles came when he won the Capital Jazz Fest Challenge. In the same year, he released his sophomore album *From the Heart*, the offering that planted Anderson firmly on the contemporary jazz map. The critically acclaimed record earned strong airplay for both "Karsen's Song" and "Sparkle City", the latter being written about his hometown of Spartanburg, South Carolina.

In 2011, Anderson received the North Carolina Gospel Announcers' Prestige Award for Gospel Jazz Artist of the Year. His third album, *NOW*, challenged and stretched his smooth jazz roots, producing a diverse record that reached across R&B, pop and jazz boundaries and showcased his exceptional talent as a producer, arranger and artist. Following the success of *NOW*, Prince reached out to Anderson and invited him to join the New Power Generation. "Touring with Prince has been rewarding in so many different ways; I feel as if I've been in grad school, business classes, and etiquette school all wrapped into one. Thank you Paisley University! All these lessons have helped enhance my solo career and new opportunities I continue to explore."

"All About You" is the crowd pleasing pop anthem of *Style Meets Substance* the artist's last studio album (2014). Anderson demonstrates his talent as both artist and producer on this CD and further exemplified his chameleon-like ability to make the leap from smooth jazz and rock-jazz fusion to R&B, funk and synthesized dance beats.

In addition to Prince, Anderson has toured with CeeLo Green, Judith Hill, Sheila E, Liv Warfield and Anthony Hamilton. As a solo artist, Anderson has been honored to open for and join on stage artists such as Ledisi, Lalah Hathaway, Brian Culbertson, Esperanza Spaulding, Peter White, Boney James, Kirk Whalum, Gerald Albright, George Duke, Wynton Marsalis, Norman Brown, Nnenna Freelon, Johnathan Butler, Euge Groove, Jennifer Holiday and The Sax Pack. Anderson has also played with several headliners during guest appearances on many well-noted shows such as Jimmy Kimmel Live!, Arsenio Hall Show, Jimmy Fallon and The Tonight Show.

When not in the studio or on the road, he is bicycling, drinking *AND Coffee™*, on the golf course or enjoying spending time with his two daughters.

Marcus Anderson continues to entertain fans worldwide onstage with his own solo performances as well as his featured roles with other internationally known artists, and on recordings. He is indeed part of the new jazz generation taking the genre to yet another level with the promise of continued growth and success.

Please visit [www.marcusanderson.net](http://www.marcusanderson.net) or social media at [@mandersonsax](https://twitter.com/mandersonsax) for all the latest on Marcus Anderson.