



RAI & WHITNEY KEATON

ELECTRONIC PRESS KIT

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RAII & WHITNEY KEATON, AKA «The Smiths », are not your typical recording artists. Although many young entertainers write, perform and sing; very few have had the opportunity to do so while sharing some of the world's biggest stages with some of the most renowned stars...and their significant other.

That is the case of RAII and Whitney Keaton, who married in August of 2010 in RAII's hometown of Chicago. Having met several years earlier, the two crossed paths during RAII's years as an undergraduate student at the University of Illinois. Whitney, an Urbana-Champaign native, met RAII when he joined her as a member of a local gospel music ensemble. They would spend the next five years traveling, performing, writing and arranging music together. Eventually, the pair noticed that their personal, professional and romantic interests had a significant overlap.



Beginning in 2012, RAII joined Whitney Keaton as a member of the Alicia Keys band. Together, the husband and wife team joined Alicia as her sole supporting vocalists. In the process of their touring, each is finding time to work on their respective solo careers. They are currently writing and recording original music for various upcoming projects and are excited to share their music with the world.



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CONTACT@RAIANDWHITNEYKEATON.COM

RAII - Rhythm. Alternative. Instrumental. Inspirational. These are four of the elements that combine to form singer-songwriter and producer, RAII.



Born and raised on the Southside of Chicago, RAII has been singing since the age of three. Like many of the great soul singers of our time, RAII began his musical journey at his grandmother's church. By the age of seven, he was playing for the church choir and performing at every chance. He would spend the next 20 years cultivating his vocal and piano virtuosity.

Before graduating from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, RAII served as President of the Black Chorus. In addition, he was the Director of Soul Premier, a musical ensemble that performed traditional and contemporary music from the African American experience.

After graduation, RAII moved to New York City to pursue his dream of entertaining. He was immediately cast in an off-Broadway musical, Katrina: A Whole Lotta Water. Soon to follow were parts as a performer and Musical Director in the off-Broadway productions of Dreamgirls, The Wiz, The Grandpa and Men on the Downlow.

Not long after, RAII was offered and accepted a position singing with the world famous Harlem Gospel Singers on a European Tour that included over 50 shows in more than six countries. The tour went so well that he was brought back for a second time, this time as the Assistant Choreographer. RAII was finally asked back for a third tour, this time, he added the title of Choir Director to his previous roles and became the youngest ever to hold that position in the Harlem Gospel Singers rich history.

With his building performing and touring resume, RAII was then asked to join the live performance team of Grammy Award winning recording artist, Estelle, as a background singer. In addition, he has also been a supporting vocalist to various artists including Kid Cudi, Christte Michelle and Joan Jett amongst others.

In 2012, RAII joined his wife, singer-songwriter Whitney Keaton, as a supporting vocalist with international megastar, Alicia Keys. Whitney had already been a member of Alicia Keys' band for several years. Currently, in the process of their touring, RAII is finding time to work on his solo career. He is currently writing and recording original music for various upcoming projects and is excited to share his music with the world.



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Many a story has started with someone packing their bags and putting all their faith in God's plan. Whitney Keaton's story started long before that moment.

Born and raised in Champaign, Illinois, Whitney hails from a musical family. Each Sunday, her mother and aunt could be found directing and singing lead in the church choir as her grandfather delivered the sermon. It was in the church that Whitney's gift for music was nurtured from an early age.

In early 2007, after completing two years of college, Whitney had faith that God had something for her in New York and a strong belief that He would make a way for her to get there. It was at this time that her now husband, RAI, was working with a pastor-producer on a compilation album. RAI had set up an audition for Whitney over the telephone. The pastor was convinced with what he heard and bought her ticket to New York to sing on the project.

Once arriving in New York; with faith, drive and passion, she began to do all she could to take advantage of the opportunity she had been given. She quickly landed a lead role in an off-Broadway production of Dreamgirls, as well as singing background vocals for various local artists and plays, and also attending open mic nights.

While simultaneously pursuing her musical aspirations, Whitney began working as an instructor with middle school aged students at a social service agency. Four months into working as an instructor, a co-worker mentioned an open audition for backing vocalists for international icon, Alicia Keys.



Upon arriving at the audition, Whitney found herself in the middle of a line that stretched for several hundred hopeful singers. When finally getting to the door, she and the others were told that auditions were done for the day and they were not going to be able to sing. Undeterred, she showed up the next day hoping to get a chance to sing, and this time that is just what she did. After several rounds of callbacks and further auditions, Whitney was called into her first official rehearsal and has been singing with Alicia ever since.

In 2010, in addition to being a lead vocalist in the background section, Whitney was also a featured soloist throughout Alicia Keys' Freedom Tour. Her hard work and dedication has taken her on worldwide tours doing what she loves. It has also allowed her the privilege to sing with some of the biggest names in music, including 50 Cent, Estelle and many more.

In 2012, Whitney's husband, RAI, also a singer-songwriter, was added to the Alicia Keys team and currently the two serve as supporting vocalists for the fourteen-time Grammy Award winner.

Along with her role as supporting vocalist, Whitney is also focusing on her own solo debut project. Excited to show her abilities as a composer, arranger, singer and songwriter, Whitney's desire is that her music will help heal the world with a message of love. The evidence of her strong spiritual upbringing paired with her emotion, soul and passion is still evident as she continues to live her one-way ticket to her dream.



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LINKS



DOUBLE DOOR LIVE - RECAP

<http://goo.gl/6xKeCB>

INTERVIEW WITH STOOP55

<http://goo.gl/6ytlpF>

WCIU INTERVIEW-PERFORMANCE

<http://goo.gl/TcWlXH>

VIDEO REEL

<http://goo.gl/99A35S>

INTERVIEW WITH ANDWEPRESENT

<http://goo.gl/bSLd9o>

MUSICIANS AT GOOGLE REVIEW

<http://goo.gl/qcDHq9>

YOU'RE ALL I NEED TO GET BY

<http://goo.gl/mGVxQC>

RECAP 2012

<http://goo.gl/6YL02h>

SPEND MY LIFE

<http://goo.gl/G1mohu>

[SOUNDCLOUD.COM/RAIIANDWHITNEYKEATON](https://soundcloud.com/raiiandwhitneykeaton)

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CONTACT@RAIIANDWHITNEYKEATON.COM



NO WORRIES (STEP CLAP)



available on:



Watch Alicia Keys singing RAIi & Whitney Keaton's debut single
'No Worries (Step Clap)'
on [youtube.com/RAIiandWhitneyKeaton](https://www.youtube.com/RAIiandWhitneyKeaton)

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PRESS ARTICLES



Interview by Examiner.com - <http://goo.gl/jwgtNo>
RAII & WK: A love story made in musical heaven



Interview by N'DIGO - <http://goo.gl/tTxVpQ>
RAII & WK's Debut Concert - The Double Door



Interview by Rolling Out - <http://goo.gl/YwrrwKg>
RAII & Whitney Keaton to perform debut concert



Interview by AndWePresent - <http://goo.gl/4JFpST>
Whitney Keaton and RAI: The Gift of Marriage and Talent



Interview by VIBE Vixen - <http://goo.gl/5yHuJ9>
Industry couple: RAI and Whitney Keaton



Interview by YS Mag - <http://goo.gl/k4LdRJ>
Power Couples Week: RAI and Whitney Keaton



Interview by Canadian Musician - <http://goo.gl/8QU7ZY>
A Conversation with Whitney Keaton



RAIANDWHITNEYKEATON.COM

CONTACT@RAIANDWHITNEYKEATON.COM

CONTACT



For inquiries/bookings:

contact@raiiandwhitneykeaton.com



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