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Jamaican SAMANTHA GOODEN bares her soul at SONGBIRDS...live™ in September

Samantha Gooden will be the next vocalist performing at the 2010 edition of SONGBIRDS...live™, the concert series produced by Production One Ltd., featuring new Caribbean female vocalists at the Sky View Lounge, Cascadia Hotel, on **Wednesday 01, September from 8:00 pm**. The Jamaican singer and advertising executive has been singing, “since her eye was at her knee” as the Jamaican saying goes. From a tender age she has been serenading audiences young and old alike and awakening their emotions and senses to the indomitable force of music that comes from the soul. With strong roots in church, she learned how to use her voice as an instrument there and now jumps with versatility through genres of Jazz, Gospel, Pop, Reggae and Contemporary alike.

This British-born multi-talented singer, songwriter is not stranger to the power of music. Samantha began singing as early as she can remember, improvising little summertime musical plays in her backyard, and later in her childhood holding her hairbrush “microphone” to raise the roof of the bathroom. But the shower was not to be her only audience, and after migrating from England with her parents to Jamaica in the early 90s, she really found her voice, with Whitney Houston's “One Moment In Time” being an inspirational target. She was awarded several gold and silver medals at the national level in island competitions, earning her a coveted scholarship to the Edna Manley School of the Performing Arts for Voice training. Choosing to focus on her academic scientific path, she deferred the scholarship and went on to shine at her private school earning another scholarship that would take her to college.

In college she became known for her inspirational deliveries of traditional and contemporary tunes and to this date is still remembered for her soul stirring renditions. She took her love for music on the road with her band Mellow Groove Music and performed on many live shows including awards ceremonies for the Jamaica Chamber of Commerce and the Rt. Honourable P.J. Patterson. Her career path moved to advertising once she recognized that as a medical technologist, she was confronted by many persons with sicknesses that did not inspire her emotionally. A one-off chance to write and sing an advertising jingle cemented her gradual transition to her current career as an advertising executive in Trinidad.

With strong roots in church, she has learned how to use her voice as an instrument to jump with versatility through genres of Jazz, Gospel, Pop, Reggae and Contemporary alike. Jazz became her muse by accident she will tell as one day at a popular club, she was jamming with former "Black Uhuru" guitarist, Fitzroy Bennett and instantly it was love. They went on to perform as a



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duo at several Jazz shows around the island of Jamaica gaining experience in songcraft and performance. Within the last few years Samantha has lived in Trinidad and has graced audiences such as those at Jazz Artists on the Greens™ in Trinidad, St Lucia Jazz 2010 with her unique Jazz appeal. She has worked with musicians like Clive Zanda, Sean Thomas and Luther François. They each comment on her versatility and the ease with which she becomes at one with the music.

Samantha, as part of a “bucket list,” promised to use her new voice and live to the fullest after a near-fatal illness last year. To experience her open conversations and intimate stories as she bares her soul in song is to know Samantha. Her Jamaican heritage is not to be forgotten and as she shares her life through music; in between songs you'll get a glimpse of the Caribbean treasure that is Samantha. To experience songbird Samantha Gooden is to experience the crescendos of an inspirational life changing force.

SONGBIRDS...live™ features, from June to December on the first Wednesday of the month, some of the most notable upcoming and unheralded female voices in contemporary music in Trinidad and Tobago. Tickets for **SONGBIRDS...live™** are \$100.00 and are available by calling 620-6920, or online at <http://songbirdslive2010.eventbrite.com/> or at the door on the night of the performance. For more information and to listen to tracks by the artists visit the website, <http://www.songbirdslive.com>

You can also visit our Facebook page.

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