

Newest soul singer on the block – Omar Wilson – gets Stone for his hot new single

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Once in a while, an artist arrives on the scene that we just can't get enough of! **Omar Wilson** is one of those artists.

You heard right! Wilson sings what he calls "Blues and Rhythm." This invention is meant to differentiate his often-gritty lyrics from those of other R&B singers who seem to "have forgotten the second half of Rhythm and Blues," according to this out of this world singer.

His album isn't even scheduled for release until much later this year, and already word has it that the songs are so addictive that the producers couldn't stop playing them.

The new sound is layered in his first single "Get to Know You Better," a smashing duet featuring Grammy Award-winning artist Angie Stone. And the buzz from the highly anticipated single – released to radio on Tuesday, August 4, 2009 on the Phoenix Entertainment label – is off the charts!

"While flying to Atlanta to record a duet with Angie Stone, I wanted to have a concept ready and so I wrote the hook and the first verse and together with Angie we finished 'Get to Know You Better' which was produced by Mike City," stated an ecstatic Wilson.

"Basically, this song is about a guy that meets a young lady that he is really into and she is also 'feeling' him. However, she's been hurt, mentally scarred in the past and afraid to let down her guard."

"He pursues her, insures and reinsures her that he will do everything in his power to make her happy. Believing in each other, they spend every day together, learning what makes each other tick. He learns what makes her happy and she finally experiences the love she's always dreamed of," Wilson concluded.

Like a breath of fresh air, Wilson sounds unlike any artist that is presently climbing the charts. His lyrics have meaning; his songs are real songs with real instrumentation, superb production, all the right hooks and melodies, and a voice that is hauntingly a hybrid of Donny Hathaway, Nate Dogg, and Seal rolled into one.

His preference to comment on life experience makes it no surprise when he cites 2Pac, Donny Hathaway, Sam Cooke and David Ruffin as major influences. As a precursor to his debut album, the sensational singer wants to release a tribute album to 2Pac, his mentor and his inspiration as a singer/songwriter and actor. The album – tentatively entitled *Introducing Omar Wilson* – is slated for release late 2009.

Reflecting on his growing career, Wilson confides, "I hope my singing and music will touch



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the deepest part of people's souls. I sing about life and what we all go through living it. I've slept on people's floors and lived on TV dinners but on the flip side I've also enjoyed working at my craft in top studios around the country. I know it's a journey and that it takes focus and dedication. I know it's what I've been put on this earth to do."

No stranger to the struggles of life, Wilson like many artists started out in church and later transitioned to rap and eventually to his own style of blues and soul mixed with hip hop. He is steadily building large audiences in the Northeast. Wilson regularly performs in showcases around New York City and in Connecticut.

Whatever ignited inside **Omar Wilson** when he was only six years of age, is still burning brightly at twenty-eight. The powerful and spiritual impact his voice had upon churchgoers in Norwalk, Connecticut's Calvary Baptist Church in those days is still warming hearts across the nation.

The remarkable evolution from a vocally gifted boy into a richly diverse singer-songwriter and arranger is the blueprint of his ongoing musical journey.

Wilson is no stranger to the struggles of life. Starting out in church and later transitioning first to rap and eventually to his own style of soul mixed with hip hop, he has steadily continued to build audiences throughout the U.S., with regular performances in showcases around New York City and Connecticut and opening for the likes of The Neville Brothers and Boyz II Men.

A three time winner of Amateur Night at The Apollo in 2007 (Harlem's world renowned theater that has jumpstarted many of the nation's famous recording artists and stars), Wilson won on three separate occasions, garnering him the title of "Biggest Winner" that entire season.

He is also the recipient of the 2004 Faces in the Crowd Showcase Award, named Unsigned Artist of the Month in the December 2004 issue of Street Mos Magazine and was featured in Rap Fanatic Magazine along with 50 Cent who graced the Vol. 4, 2005 cover.

Most recently, he also won the award for Most Dynamic R&B Artist of the Year at the Underground Music Awards in 2006 and 2007 respectively.

Wilson's collection of emo-

tionally charged and soulful tunes is a wonderful introduction to a singer inspired by the ebbs and flows of life and family. His songs tackle a broader spectrum of social issues (the nation's economy, homelessness, education, the Madoff ponzi scheme) rather than solely emoting the romantic fervor commonly found in contemporary R&B.

He can perhaps credit some of his artistic sensibilities to his roots; his father emceed at nightclubs in the 1970s and was a member of the band called Soul Messengers.

At six years old, the impact of his powerfully soulful voice was evident to his audience at Calvary Baptist Church in his hometown of Norwalk, CT. "When I sang solo gospel numbers, I would see the adults in the audience crying. Just brought to tears. As a kid, I didn't understand what was happening or how my voice was having this effect on people."

At seventeen, following a troubled period in high school while seeking direction and witnessing his peers being jailed or worse, Wilson moved to Durham, North Carolina, where encouraged to rap, he joined a group called The Lost Souls along with three of his cousins.

While working with producer Mike City (Brandy, Usher), the group released two albums, *Soul Talk* and *Life Is Life* distributed by Ichiban Records. During this time, Wilson the songwriter and melody-maker began to flourish. He began writing hooks and harmonies that led him to an entirely different style.

Audiences are continually "wowed" by the performer, reaffirming the emotional reaction he received as a child at his church performances. "I was getting a stronger response from my singing rather than my rap which, about five years ago led me to concentrate on my rhythm and blues rather than my rhymes. I love rap because it taught me how to outline any idea for a song which I was able to use as I started to write and sing."

During a Los Angeles studio visit, Wilson recalls a pivotal conversation he shared with L.L. Cool J, whose work he deeply respects. "L.L. was sitting in the studio and one of our tracks was playing. He was really into it and started talking to me about pursuing this as a career. He really encouraged me to just focus on what I wanted to do and to allow nothing to stop me."