

Katherine Davis

Vocalist, Songwriter, Actress, Recording Artist, and Blues-In-The-Schools Educator

Katherine grew up in Chicago on the northside and spent her youth in the Cabrini Green housing projects. Her family was surrounded with lots of music; her mother Ethel was a singer and would always sing around the house, have family singalongs, and tell stories how she grew-up in a musical family. During that time, Katherine's father owned a bar; he had to manage doing all the work in the tavern including, deejaying. In fact, Katherine's grandfather Earl Campbell, performed with Louis Armstrong and Count Basie. There was plenty of music of all sorts and the exposure to the sounds of Blues, Swing, Jazz, and Rhythm & Blues, would have the house jumping with everyone on their feet dancing.

The music and voices of her mother Ethel Davis, along with Ella Fitzgerald, Sarah Vaughn, Della Reese, Ethel Waters, Dinah Washington, Aretha Franklin, Mahalia Jackson, Louis Armstrong, Duke Ellington, Muddy Waters, Howlin Wolf, Ray Charles, BB King, James Brown and many more to name; helped develop Katherine's passion for singing.

Katherine also grew up singing in church choirs where she learned Spirituals & Hymns and Gospel. This experience further developed her vocal range, harmonizing with others and later, forming her own singing group; the Chicago Victory Gospelaires. When her family moved to the southside of Chicago, Katherine's desire to sing grew stronger. As she grew old enough to go to clubs and hear live music, she would have musicians practice in their basement and perform live music in lounges, during the 60's and 70's.

In the early 80's, Katherine studied classical voice and literature in opera at the Sherwood Music Conservatory. Later she studied music theory and theater at Kennedy King College; her training in opera, was later utilized at the Second Chance Gospel Opera Company. In 1988, Katherine toured Osaka, Japan through the Chicago Artist Abroad Program. Katherine later became part of the Rueben Lightfoote Gospel Ensemble prior to landing a part in a play at Chicago's oldest African American theater company, as Ma Rainey and Bessie Smith, in the Kuumba Theatre's production of "In the Heart of the Blues". Katherine's acting debut at Kuumba helped launch her career in an array of mediums and genres; including an appearance on the television show *Psychic Crime Busters* (ABC), and landed an understudy role, in the Victory Gardens Production of "The Colored Museum."

Katherine's invested interest in the Blues in the Schools program started in 1992 with the Artist in Residency Program; which was kicked-off in Columbia, South Carolina. During this era, Katherine was recognized as a Road Scholar by the Illinois Humanities Council –while she toured under the NACA (National Association Campus Activities) program for ten-years; to colleges and universities throughout the U.S. until 1996.

In January 2000, Katherine Davis was chosen to accompany Mayor Richard J. Daley to help represent the City of Chicago at the World Economic Forum in Davos, Switzerland; where she performed at the diplomatic reception.

As a vocalist, Katherine has performed annually at the Chicago Blues Festival over the past twenty-years featuring the Blues in the Schools program. She has toured the U.S., Canada, Japan, Turkey and Europe –performing in jazz, blues and folk festivals; special-events, private parties, clubs and concert venues.

Katherine's passion is directed toward bringing the rich heritage and personalities of the blues to children, through the Blues in the Schools program. Here, students are taught the importance of our rich culture and historical components that have enriched this country's appreciation for perseverance and the values associated with diversity; while unbridling, in harmony, their own respective generation to this genre. Students enjoy and have fun discovering the value of self-esteem, self-control and teamwork; as they begin to unveil their capacity to compose, sing and perform, as a group –performing at a venue, like the Chicago Blues Festival, at the end of the course.

Thank you for visiting Katherine Davis' website: <https://www.bluessingerkatherinedavis.com/>
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