

## Kevin Michael Biography

There are artists who've got something, and there are artists who've got it, and upon hearing his voice for the first time, it's obvious that Kevin Michael is firmly in the latter category. With an irresistible blend of soul, funk, R&B and pop he conjures up greats from the past while bringing something totally new to the game; extending the tradition of R&B while imagining it anew. His Downtown Records self-titled debut is the sound of a prodigy staking his claim to the throne, music that serves as an announcement to the world that a phenom has arrived.

Born in Chester, Pennsylvania, the child of a black father and an Italian mother, Kevin grew up in a house filled with music. His father, a music fanatic, was known in his hood as "Rick Prince" due to his love of Rick James and Prince. Absorbing the music around him like a sponge, he was a constant source of potential embarrassment to his mother – because she couldn't take him anywhere without him singing out loud to passersby's everywhere.

Growing up, the music came from within Kevin, and he began recording as a teen. "At 16, I wrote my first song," he recalls. "I woke up in the studio one night and something literally clicked in my head! I really heard it, so I said, 'I better write this down.' My father still calls it a classic." For Kevin, music was the only option worth considering. He recounts, "I had the offer of a full scholarship to Hofstra, but I never seriously thought about it. I feel real strongly about doing what it is you want to do. Of course, my mom didn't understand. But I felt a real responsibility to live out my legend."

Creating a legend and then living it out is what Kevin has set out to do with his debut album, *Kevin Michael*. "We All Want The Same Thing," the album's opener, serves as both a statement of purpose and roots for the artist who lived in worlds both black and white. "It Don't Make Any Difference To Me," produced by and featuring Wyclef Jean, brings a Caribbean flavor to the mix, showing both the range of Kevin's songwriting abilities and the depth of his pride at who he is. Combining an irresistible pop feel with the poignancy of the lyric, what emerges is a trans-racial modern day anthem.

"If I Ain't Got You" is one of those rare one-listen songs; a bonafide smash-to-be, a love song filled with lament and loss – and a chorus that soars and demands to be sung along with upon hearing it for the first time. "Vicki Secrets," featuring Kevin's falsetto, shows off a singer with considerable sex appeal who knows how to communicate to the ladies. And then there's Kevin's ode to Michael Jackson, "Stone Cold Killa," which weaves a Latin percussive feel with snappy pop phrasing and layered vocal harmonies that conjure a world of good times, beautiful women and smiles on the dance floor.

"I don't know where I begin and the music stops," exclaims Kevin. With a stunning debut, *Kevin Michael*, ready to be unleashed upon an unsuspecting music public, the young soul man with the brimming confidence is ready to take his vision on the road and to the next level: "I'm going to tie everything together. Be Mr. Global, Mr. Universe. I've got the hit songs to do it – and wait till you see my show!" Those are big claims, but great R&B stars were never about being falsely modest – they were about making big statements and having the skills to back it up. "I came out of the gates swinging," he says of his debut album, and it's obvious that Kevin Michael is one of those rare artists who have got the talent to truly *connect*.