

HELEN ROGERS

Singer/Songwriter



REPRESENTATION:

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BIOGRAPHY OF HELEN ROGERS

Singer/ Songwriter Helen Rogers, best known as the voice of the *Jazzmasters* and *Direct Drive*, encapsulates the vibe of two distinctive music movements, Lovers Rock Reggae and Smooth Jazz Funk giving a cool retro feel to her sound. Vocally she has a distinctive smooth, sweet tone that is instantly recognisable.

She began her singing career in London in the 80's, firstly with *One Stop* a South London reggae label, where she met and recorded with reggae legend *Ken Parker* and worked with lovers rock band *Natural Touch*. She went on to become lead singer of the #1 Brit Funk band *Direct Drive*, and was signed to Polydor Records in this capacity. They had a massive hit with their song '*Anything*' which remained #1 on the Black Echoes Soul chart for 8 weeks then crossed over to the UK National Chart. Helen then went on to co-write and record a series of Adult Contemporary Smooth Jazz albums called *Jazzmasters* with multi-instrumentalist and producer *Paul Hardcastle* of '19' fame. Throughout the 90's the *Jazzmasters* series entered Billboard's Smooth Jazz charts numerous times with several entries peaking at the #1 position. Helen also featured strongly on Paul's eponymous album projects. In 2007 Helen recorded an album of Reggae versions of pop hits from the 70's titled *Homage* with multi-instrumentalist and vocalist *Black Steel*. Her solo EP *Eyes Like Midnight* released in 2008 was a departure in style, featuring violin and cello played by Tony Qunta, and remained on the CD Baby bestseller list for many months.

Helen has been creating a lot of interest on the London Reggae specialist radio stations with her recent releases '*Moving On*' hitting the #1 spot on the BBC Worldbeat Reggae show, and '*Just Be Thankful*', '*Faith For Love*' and '*Woman Overboard*' receiving a massive amount of UK airplay.

Helen has been blessed to perform at many major events and venues in the UK, including London's *Summer Soulstice Festival*, *Hootananny's*, *Black Grape Club*, *Excelsior Club*, *O2 Indigo*, *Good Ship* and *The Scoop*.

Helen's debut album "Smooth Jazz Meets Reggae", (Skinny Bwoy Records), brings together the best of both her worlds – Smooth Jazz & Reggae. It was released in November of 2015 to rave reviews. Helen is currently planning shows in support of the new album.

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