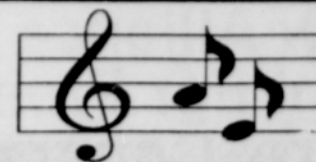




# ENTERTAINMENT



## bebe + cece WINANS



CeCe BeBe

**BEBE & CECE WINANS**

**"We** send out messages of hope," says BeBe, the male half of the Grammy-award-winning duo, BeBe & CeCe Winans. "That's our inspiration. I'm concerned about the things we face in this world, and the listeners can't help but feel our energy and sincerity. It's music from the heart, and I think that's why it goes straight to the hearts of others."

"Music is a very powerful tool that can change a person's outlook," agrees BeBe's 26-year-old sister CeCe. "Everything we sing touches our emotions and, hopefully, the emotions of those who listen. Our songs let people know who we are and what we believe in, they are a chance to share with people what we feel."

Different Lifestyles is the distinctive new album by gospel's most celebrated duo, and one that continues to broaden and redefine the contemporary genre. With breathtaking songs that touch the heart and uplift the soul, the young brother and sister team have struck a chord with spiritual and mainstream audiences alike. The duo's music transcends boundaries, attracting a growing number of Top 40 and R&B fans, and the Winans' incredible talent is creating one of the greatest successes in gospel music.

The newest chapter in their success story is Different Lifestyles, a brave and beautiful album of unharnessed joy

and revelation. "The Blood," featuring a faithful rap by M.C. Hammer, offers the boldest statement the duo has ever made; "I'll Take You There," with Mavis Staples, is their spectacular version of the Staple Singers' classic; Luther Vandross' background vocal arrangement on "Searching For Love (It's Real)"; "Can't Take This Away" offers a surprising traditional flair with the appearance of the Mt. Calvary Baptist Church Choir of Indio, California; and the powerful first single, "Addictive Love," has a very special guest performance by an anonymous honorary sister. Through and through, the album embraces BeBe & CeCe's most evocative performances yet.

And that's really saying something. BeBe and CeCe have been honored with nearly 30 major industry award nominations since they first began recording together in 1987, but they've been singing together their entire lives. BeBe (Benjamin) & CeCe (Priscilla) Winans were born in Detroit, the seventh and eighth of 10 children, to the musical Winans family. Their father is a minister, so the large family grew up with a deeply inherent love for gospel that flourishes today. Several of their brothers currently comprise The Winans, Daniel Winans is a Grammy-winning solo artist, and three sisters have formed the new group, Sisters (produced, in part, by BeBe).

## SPREAD LOVE



Nathan Morris, 21



Michael McCary, 20

They're not wild, angry or loud, yet Boyz II Men has become one of today's hottest pop groups. could it be their message?

Their Haunting, Lyrical Signature Song, "It's So Hard To Say Goodbye to Yesterday," was played at high school proms throughout the nation this year, on radio stations and on car stereos almost every where. The young singers who call themselves Boyz II Men are at the top of the charts, but they are unlike anyone else in music today.

At a time when some music seems to be a vehicle for confrontation and discord, Boyz II Men sing about love and peace. The group is well-groomed and soft-spoken. Instead of synthesizers and sophisticated dubbing and mixing techniques, the Philadelphia quartet relies on the most challenging instrument of all--the human voice. To top it all, within two years after they emerged from the inner city, they have won a Grammy award and seen their first album turn platinum. How, I wondered, did these nice guys finish first?

It was a typical few days in the schedule of a successful group: a concert in Monroe, La., followed by an all-night bus trip to a video shoot the next morning in Houston. Despite the strain, the singers were energetic, outgoing, eager to explain themselves. Shawn Stockman told me they took their name from a song that the members liked. "Our name, Boyz II Men, expresses what we are trying to do--bridge the gap between young and old, black and white, all colors, all sizes, all people," he said.

In Monroe, I saw how their music did just that. Thousands arrived for the show as varied as they could be: from early adolescence to middle age, in every color and size, from the affluent to those who struggled to raise the \$20.00 ticket price. They sang hits from their album, like "Uhh Ahh" and "Under Pressure," but when "It's So Hard To Say Goodbye" began--with its shimmering arpeggios and the bell-like clarity of its cappella sound--the audience was transformed. Holding hands aloft, brushing tears away and swaying to the rhythm of the music, the people seemed to become, for a moment, united. "We may not be able to change the world," Shawn said later, "but if we can join people together during a show, it may make a difference in somebody's life."

Making a difference is a theme that runs through almost every conversation with Boyz II Men. "Our values come from our families," Nate Morris told me. "We were brought up to believe that God put you in a position to help other people. Music is a way of giving back."

Just a few years ago, they were, in Mike McCary's words, "just four lonely brothers." Nate, 21, Shawn, 20, Mike, 20 and Wanya Morris (no relation to Nate), 19, grew up in Philadelphia's poor neighborhoods.



Wanya Morris, 19



Shawn Stockman, 20

*Mission Of 'Boyz II Men' Is To Spread Love And Understanding*  
"We may not be able to change the world, but if we can join people together during a show, it may make a difference in somebody's life," declared Shawn Stockman of the a cappella quartet, "Boyz II Men," which has become a hot group despite the fact that they are not wild, angry or loud.

The big difference in their lives was admission to The High School for the Creative and Performing Arts, a selective public school whose students must audition to get in. Like all other singing students at the school, the four studied musical composition and theory. Although their roots were in rhythm & blues and gospel music, they were taught to sing Mozart and Bach. "I learned to appreciate classical music," Mike says.

The young men invariably gravitated toward each other. "We were different people, with different friends," Shawn says. "But we loved to sing. That brought us together."

In 1989, the four entered a talent show at their school--and their lives changed. "The curtains opened, and we sang," Wanya recalls, "and there was bunch of people we'd known for the longest time, screaming like they'd never seen us before. Suddenly, we thought, 'This could be a career,'" a month later, they sneaked backstage at a concert and persuaded the record producer Michael Bivins to let them sing for him. "Just listening to them, I could tell they'd be great," he recalls. Bivins produced their hit album Cooleyhighharmony and helped arrange this year's national tour, in which they appeared as the opening act for the rap megastar Hammer. On tour, they were under the wing of Khalil Rountree, a veteran of the music business, who became their road manager and confidant. "Khalil was like our father," Nate says.

According to Wanya, Rountree's influence extended both to their music and their lives: "The message we're trying to get across to people is that they should spread love. Khalil explained to us that, onstage, you can have hurt and anger inside you, but it can't be shown to the people. They want to see your best performance. And if the hurt and anger they feel can be taken away by your performance, you'll feel better."

In May, when the group was in Chicago for a concert, Khalil Rountree was shot and killed in his hotel. Arrests have been made, but Mike says, "We don't know what happened. Right now, we just sit back and try to figure out why."

The group canceled its appearances for several weeks. "We had to get our heads together, deal with the funeral, get Khalil's family straight, make sure their heads were all right," Mike says. They discussed canceling the rest of the tour, but memories of Khalil persuaded them not to. "We knew we had to come back out," Nate says. "It was what he wanted us to do." Back on the road, Boyz II Men have started writing songs for their next album. True to Khalil's teaching, they are not filling the songs with the anger and pain of their loss. The album should be out next year, and Boyz II Men probably will accompany its release with another nationwide tour--with a difference. Michael Bivins predicts they'll be the headline act.

I pointed out that other groups had been ruined by success: quartets as diverse as the Temptations and the Beatles broke up when ego outstripped team work. "What makes us different is that we realize we need each other," Shawn says.

Nate agrees and adds: "As long as people like what we're doing, we're going to keep doing it."

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one, refreshments and a grand prize drawing for your next birthday party at Hart's Reptile World. Mom says you can give me birthday gifts of scarves or T-shirts (childs sm.). All the other 300 reptiles will be here for you to see also but this is my weekend. We're all indoors and heated during the Winter season, and all activities are free after regular reptile zoo admission. 7 and up \$3.00, 3 to 6 yrs. \$2.00 and 2 and under free. Phone 266-7236 for more information and directions.

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