

FRED NELSON III



Fred Nelson III, Producer, Composer, Arranger, Conductor and Keyboardist extraordinaire, is a native Chicagoan where he currently resides. Blessed with the gift of perfect pitch, Fred's career began at a very early age. He was inspired by his father who served as chief organist at First Church of Deliverance in Chicago. As an infant, his father would strap him to his waist as he practiced. This was the only way to keep Fred from crying. By 2 years of age, Fred was playing his first song "Yes, Jesus Loves Me". Fred's mother, Octavia continuously filled the house with diverse music at the realization of his God given gift. Fred started his formal training at the Chicago Conservatory of music and continued his education at DePaul University and Oberlin Conservatory of Music with a concentration in Organ and Composition. A child prodigy at age six, Fred performed with Ray Charles as his opening act for two years.

As he continued his pursuit, Mr. Nelson's focus gradually changed from performance to music production and direction. Through Nelson Entertainment Group, Inc., he has produced music for national radio and television commercials for over three decades. His list of commercial clients include major advertising agencies such as Burrell, Leo Burnett, Vince Cullers, to name a few. Fred produced music for clients such as McDonald's, Polaroid, Sears, Coca Cola featuring Anita Baker, United Airlines, Illinois State Lottery, American Airlines, Toyota, Ford and Sears to name a few.

In addition, Fred has also served as a producer and musician for several recording projects. As a musician: artists include, Celine Dion, Chuck Mangione, Neil Diamond and others. As a producer/writer: his own CD "The Project". Fred was also the producer/composer of the popular Gospel song "He's Been So Good" as recorded by First Church of Deliverance, which charted on the Billboard Gospel Chart top 5 for over 26 weeks.

As Music Director/Conductor, his credits include Ms. Aretha Franklin, Jennifer Holliday, Anita Baker, Jennifer Hudson, Della Reese, Ben Vereen, PBS special "Going Home to Gospel featuring Patti La Belle", The Annual Stellar Awards (1992-present) George Gruntz's Cantata performed in Switzerland, Salute to Leontyne Price at Carnegie Hall, Chicago Symphony Orchestra featuring The Christ Universal Temple Ensemble, The Chicago Gospel Festival, and many more.

In addition to concerts, award shows and commercials, Mr. Nelson has performed, arranged and produced music for featured films such as Hoodlums, My Best Friend's Wedding, Love Relations (HBO feature) and for the documentary The Invisible Men of Honor: The Legend of the Buffalo Soldiers.

Over the span of his career, Mr. Nelson has served as Minister of Music over several prominent Music and Arts departments inclusive of New Faith Baptist Church International – Matteson, IL; First Church of Deliverance – Chicago, IL and Christ Universal Temple – Chicago. IL.

Mr. Nelson currently, serves as Artistic Director - Special Programming for Matteson School District #162 in Matteson, IL.

Mr. Nelson has served as an elected member of the Chicago Chapter Board Governors for NARAS (The National Association of Recording Arts and Sciences) Committee for the Grammy's. He is also a signatory to SAG-AFTRA and AFM.

To Mr. Nelson's credit are several recognitions and awards for his continued pursuit of musical excellence. His most recent recognition was the Chicago Defender's "Men of Excellence Award". However, he considers his most rewarding accomplishment to be his daughter, Paige. Mr. Nelson gives credit to God first, and to list a mentors who guided and shaped his musical career. His mentors include Fred Nelson Jr. (father), Donald Byrd (Fred's tour arranger and MD with Ray Charles), Robert Mayes (Virtuoso Musician), and Wendell Logan (Fred's Oberlin College Professor). Mr. Nelson believes that he is without a doubt, merely a blessed channel for God to express Himself to uplift man through music.

Career Highlights

Formal Training

Chicago Conservatory of Music
Roosevelt University Chicago
Oberlin Conservatory
DePaul University

Serving the City of Chicago

Musical Director for Swiss Composer George Guntz's Cantata performed in Chicago, Switzerland and Germany
Musical Director for Mass Choir at Millennium Park for Chicago 2016 Olympic Campaign; composed "I Believe" for the campaign
Musical Director for Annual Chicago Gospel Fest Segment "Evening of Gospel Elegance"
Served on Chicago Gospel Fest Executive Committee for multiple years

Musical Director/Conductor/Performances

Aretha Franklin – MD/Conductor – 2011 to 2018
Annual Stellar Awards – 1992 to 2015
Jennifer Holliday
Jennifer Hudson

Rodrick Dixon of Three Mo' Tenors

Jay Leno Show - 100 Voice Choir

Christ Universal Temple - Performances have included artists Ben Vereen, Ann Nesby, Della Reese,

Jonathan Butler, Gladys Knight, Jerald Albright, and Thee Mo' Tenors

PBS Special - "Going Home to Gospel with Patti Labelle"

PUSH Anniversary Orchestra

Carnegie Hall Salute to Lyontyne Price

Recordings (Producer/Composer/Musician)

Celine Dion - Skies of L.A. Pianist

Chuck Magione - Pianist

Neil Diamond - Pianist

Fred Nelson III - "The Project"

First Church Of Deliverance "He's Been So Good" (26 weeks on Billboard Top 5)

Christ Universal Temple "It's About Time"

Sears Association Gospel Choir "Songs of Celebration"

Film

Hoodlum - Arranger / Pianist,

My Best Friends Wedding - Pianist

The Invisible Men of Honor - Buffalo Soldiers - Composer /Arranger

Love Relations (HBO feature)- Original Score/Composer /Arranger

Numerous TV/Radio Commercials - Producer /Arranger

McDonalds, Coca Cola, Tide, Kellogg's, Illinois State Lottery, American Airlines, Sears, Gatorade, Jewel Foods

Coca Cola - Featuring Anita Baker

Illinois Bell - Featuring Phyllis Hyman, Angela Bofill

Schlitz - Featuring the Ojays

United Airlines - Pianist for "Rhapsody in Blue" campaign

Affiliations

NARAS - (Served on Chicago Local Board of Governors)

SAG/AFTRA

AFM

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