

## **Larnelle Harris**

### **21<sup>st</sup> Annual Black History Month Award Recipient for Louisville Metro District 23.**

A concert critic described Larnelle Harris as having a “larger-than-life stage presence with impeccable vocal prowess.” Admired by fans and peers alike for his majestic tenor voice, Larnelle has become the personification of talent and integrity in a career that spans over five decades. He is the only person in history to be a member of three distinct hall of fame organizations-- Gospel Music Hall of Fame, Kentucky Music Hall of Fame and the Amateur Radio Hall of Fame. He was twice inducted into the Gospel Music Hall of Fame, both as a solo artist and as part of the Gaither Vocal Band.

Larnelle has garnered numerous accolades for his music including five Grammy Awards, eleven Dove Awards (three of which were for Male Vocalist of the Year), and a Stellar Award for Best Solo Performance, among many other musical honors. Larnelle was recently recognized by his home state of Kentucky with the Governor’s Award for Lifetime Achievement in the Arts, making him the first Christian artist to receive the award. He has achieved nineteen #1 radio singles and countless top 10 hits. Songs such as "How Excellent Is Thy Name," "I Miss My Time With You," "I've Just Seen Jesus," plus many others, including his signature song, "Amen," are now considered modern gospel music classics.

From the White House to the danger zone of the 38th Parallel, Larnelle has impacted audiences across the globe with his music. He was the first Christian artist to perform inside the Kremlin after the fall of the Soviet Union. He is one of a handful of celebrities to receive the Ad Council's Silver Bell Award for Distinguished Public Service in recognition of his song "Mighty Spirit" as the theme song for the longest-running Public Service Announcement in television history.

Larnelle recently released a compilation CD featuring two new songs. The title track, “Disturb Us, Lord,” was played on hundreds of stations nationwide and landed on the Christian Music Weekly’s National Inspirational radio chart. The music video for the song recently garnered the Gold Award for Best Music Video from the Christian Family Film Festival.

In 2018, Harris released his first memoir entitled “Shaped Notes: How Ordinary People with Extraordinary Gifts Influenced my Life and Career.” The book went to #1 on Amazon within three days of its release. Later this year, Larnelle will release his first Christmas musical, based on his original song “All Year Long” from his Grammy Award-winning Christmas album. The musical was co-written with Dave Clark and Nick Robertson and will be exclusively available through Lifeway.

Married to wife Cynthia (a.k.a. Mitzy) for over 45 years, Larnelle has successfully combined the demanding lifestyle of a global music career with being a husband, father, and grandfather. Still a sought-after vocalist for tours, special events and ceremonies, Larnelle continues to perform solo concerts for churches and various organizations worldwide each year. He recently performed for the National Day of Prayer event in Washington D.C., at New York City’s famed Carnegie Hall, and sang for a gathering of U.N. Ambassadors in our nation’s capital.

## **Awards & Achievements**

### **HALL OF FAME INDUCTIONS**

- 2014 Gospel Music Hall of Fame induction as former member of Gaither Vocal Band
- 2011 Kentucky Music Hall of Fame
- 2008 Amateur Radio Hall of Fame
- 2007 Gospel Music Hall of Fame

### **GRAMMY AWARDS**

- 1989 Best Gospel Performance, Male for Larnelle...Christmas
- 1988 Best Gospel Performance, Male for The Father Hath Provided
- 1986 Best Solo Gospel Performance for "How Excellent Is Thy Name"
- 1986 Best Gospel Performance by Duo or Group for "I've Just Seen Jesus" with Sandi Patty
- 1984 Best Gospel Performance by Duo or Group for "More Than Wonderful" with Sandi Patty

### **DOVE AWARDS**

- 1996 Inspirational Album of the Year for Unbelievable Love
- 1993 Inspirational Album of the Year for Generation 2 Generation
- 1992 Inspirational Album of the Year for Larnelle Live...Psalms, Hymns & Spiritual Songs
- 1988 Male Vocalist of the Year
- 1988 Songwriter of the Year
- 1988 Inspirational Album of the Year for The Father Hath Provided
- 1986 Male Vocalist of the Year
- 1986 Inspirational Album of the Year for I've Just Seen Jesus
- 1983 Inspirational Black Album of the Year for Touch Me Lord
- 1983 Male Vocalist of the Year
- 1981 Contemporary Black Gospel Album of the Year for Give Me More Love in My Heart

### **Other Accolades:**

- 2017 Lifetime Achievement in the Arts and Humanities Award from Orchestra Kentucky
- 2016 Heritage Award from National Convention of Gospel Choirs and Choruses
- 2014 Kentucky Governor's Award for Lifetime Achievement in the Arts
- 2008 Honorary Doctorate from Alma Mater, Western Kentucky University
- 2005 Soul 2 Soul Radio Award
- 1991 Silver Bell Award for Distinguished Public Service presented by the Ad Council
- 1989 Cashbox Magazine Award for Contemporary Gospel Single of the Year for "I Can Begin Again"
- 1988 Stellar Award, Best Solo Performance by Male Contemporary for The Father Hath Provided
- 1987 Singing News Fan Award for Favorite Black Artist
- 1986 Singing News Fan Award for Favorite Black Artist
- 1986 Gospel Music News People's Choice Award for Favorite Black Artist
- 1985 Singing News Fan Award for Favorite Black Artist
- 1981 Religion In Media Award