

## **\*\*Artist Biography: Erika Proctor\*\***

### **\*\*Singer-Songwriter, Arranger, Producer, and Host\*\***

Erika Proctor, a talented singer-songwriter, and music arranger has developed her artistic journey from her roots in Cleveland, Ohio. With a passion for music that began in childhood, she has honed her skills across various vocal styles, including R&B, Pop, Jazz, Funk, and Neo-Soul. Her professional career took flight in 1990, when she toured with the group MCK and the Surfettes, showcasing her talents as a singer and dancer. Their hit single "Life's a Beach" gained recognition, achieving chart success in Florida, California, and Hawaii.

Erika's move to Phoenix, Arizona, marked a significant expansion of her musical endeavors. There, she co-founded the all-female R&B group X'CEL, later known as Ylation. During her eight years with the group, they had the opportunity to open for notable national artists such as Coolio, 112, Westside Connection, LL Cool J, DJ Rob Base, and MC Shy D. This experience provided valuable exposure and learning opportunities that helped to shape her musical career.

In 1999, X'CEL celebrated a milestone with their original hit single "Baby Come Over," which garnered acclaim in the Netherlands and Amsterdam. This success enabled the group to transition into the live band music scene, where they performed at popular local venues and concerts in Phoenix and participated in significant events, including the Christmas Benefit for the Phoenix Cardinals. To add to her music career development, she was a Marketing Account Representative for the local Radio Station MAJIK 107, where she helped organize and put together appearances and performances from well-known recording artist R&B/Dance vocal singer Cece Peniston and a Comedic Show featuring Word-renowned Comedian Bernie Mac.

In 2003, Erika took an innovative step by hosting and developing the inaugural Soul Poetry Tour, which highlighted poets from Phoenix, Arizona, and St. Louis, Missouri. This initiative exemplified her commitment to promoting the arts and fostering community engagement. Following this, she actively pursued various music opportunities as a solo artist, forming a new band and contributing to the local live music scene.

Between 2011 and 2014, Erika Proctor secured a marketing and distribution partnership with Tate Music Group, which further supported her development as an original music artist. This collaboration reflects her dedication to her craft and her continuous pursuit of artistic excellence. During 2014, she released her first album with Tate Music Group, "Southwest Romance". This artist is an original, with sensitive lyrics, treating each song with the attention and soul as if it were a personal relationship.

In 2017, she was doing Live band performances in her local area of Ohio.

Erika Proctor is a must-see artist and a talented performer, and is still holding strong and capable of 'rockin' a crowd!

Today, she not only continues to work in her craft of music but wanted to take her experience and knowledge further by obtaining a degree in Sports Management, making it possible for her to help grow other artists or athletes needing support and guidance in their careers.