

WAYNA

**"SHE'S
INCREDIBLE!"**

Stevie Wonder



BIOGRAPHY



Wayna is an Ethiopian-born, GRAMMY-nominated singer, former White House writer, and actress, who celebrates the cultural influences of her background through her performances on screen and on stage. She is a 2X All Africa Music Awards Nominee, an elected National Trustee of the GRAMMYS, and the co-creator of the GRAMMY Award for Best Song for Social Change.

Wayna has performed around the world at renown venues including the White House, the Lincoln Center, the Kennedy Center, Essence Fest, the Apollo Theatre, and the Marriott and Sheraton in Ethiopia. In addition to her solo career, she joined music icon Stevie Wonder as a vocalist on the Songs in the Key of Life Tour and in other performances internationally. Wayna has also shared the stage with Dave Chapelle, Common, the Legendary Roots, Janelle Monae, Chuck Brown, India.Arie, Jazmine Sullivan, Frankie Beverly and Maze, Raheem DeVaughn, and Eric Roberson to name a few. Her music has been featured in publications such as USA Today, Billboard, BBC News, the UK Daily Mail, Essence Magazine, Complex, the Baltimore Sun, the Toronto Star, and the Washington Post.

As an actor, Wayna starred opposite Ethan Herisse (When They See Us) in Peacock's The Other Side, a fictional short film set in Ethiopia that follows the lives of two orphan brothers. She also co-starred in 2022's Here, a short film for which she also wrote and recorded the title track, "I Won't Answer f. Dre King." In 2023, Wayna will release her latest music video for, "I Won't Answer" – a classic blues and jazz-inspired track that tells a powerful story about student who stands up to cultural bias during roll call. The single follows Wayna's three critically acclaimed solo albums, Moments of Clarity, Higher Ground, and The Expats. She received a Grammy nomination for Best Urban/Alternative Performance for her remake of "Lovin' You (Music) f. Kokayi" on Higher Ground.

“Wayna is one to watch.”

Essence Magazine

“A Standout on the Indie front.”

Billboard Magazine

“A Cross Between Minnie Riperton and Erykah Badu.”

The Baltimore Sun

“Wayna has forged a new creative path, and the result is brilliant.”

The Washington Post

“Star Power! Acclaimed singer, Wayna fronted a few duets with Wonder.”

Daily Mail, UK

“She invokes Jill’s coyness, Erykah’s poetic silliness, and Lauryn’s consciousness in one hum.”

Okayplayer



CAREER HIGHLIGHTS

ACCOLADES AND AWARDS

- 🎯 **GRAMMY Nominee**, Best Urban Alternative Performance for sophomore album, Higher Ground "Lovin You (Music)" f. Kokayi.
- 🎯 **2X All Africa Music Awards Nominee** – Best Female Artist East Africa and Best Female Artist Inspirational Music.
- 🎯 **Co-creator of the new GRAMMY Best Song for Social Change Award.**
- 🎯 **Elected National Trustee of the GRAMMYS**
- 🎯 **Ambassador**, Music Unites Africa, non-profit serving music and cultural exchange in Africa.

PACKED HEADLINED SHOWS

- 🎯 The City Winery (**DC**).
- 🎯 Bethesda Blues & Jazz (**MD**).
- 🎯 Blues Alley (**DC**).
- 🎯 Millennium Stage, Kennedy Center (**DC**).
- 🎯 The Apollo Café at the Apollo Theater (**NYC**).
- 🎯 The Blue Note (**NYC**).
- 🎯 The Marriott Addis (**Ethiopia**).
- 🎯 The Sheraton Addis (**Ethiopia**).

STANDOUT PERFORMANCES

- 🎯 Songs in the Key of Life Tour with Stevie Wonder and various performances across the country and in **Canada, Mexico, the UK.**
- 🎯 Dave Chapelle's Juke Joint (**OH**).
- 🎯 **The 7th annual Roots GRAMMY Jam**, other guest appearances with the Roots in **NYC, DC** and **LA**.
- 🎯 Headlined Sold Out New Year's Eve Concert for the official opening of the **Marriott Hotel in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.**
- 🎯 The Vagina Monologues at the Lincoln Theater with **Sherri Shepperd** and **Vanessa Williams.**
- 🎯 Save Darfur Rally on the Washington Mall with **Barak Obama** and **George Clooney.**
- 🎯 The White House Office of Women's Issues **Annual Meeting.**
- 🎯 Featured Performer at SXSW and profiled in **SXSW World Magazine.**



TV & FILM

- **"Here"** Short Film – Pan African Film Festival and Micheaux Film Festival (2022)
- **"The Other Side"** Short Film, Peacock TV, Rotten Tomatoes and Official Selection of Ten International Film Festivals (2020)
- **The Helen Show** (Ethiopian Broadcast Service) Live Performance (2022 & 2016)
- **EBS Sunday** (Ethiopian Broadcast Service) Live Performance (2022)
- **The 202** (DC Cable TV) Live Performance (2018)
- **Great Day Washington** (ABC) Live Performance (2016)
- **Fox News DC** (Fox 5) Live performance (2008)
- **Rally Against Genocide in Darfur f. Barak Obama** (CSPAN) Live Performance (2006)



FEATURED ARTICLES AND INTERVIEWS



Fox 5 News

- Good Day Atlanta Interview



Grammy.com

- 2023 GRAMMYS: How the New Best Song for Social Change Award Inspires Global Impact.



Essence.com

- "New & Next: Meet World Soul Singer Wayna"



The Baltimore Sun

- "The Evolution of Wayna"



Revolt TV

- "Wayna on her new video and working with icon Stevie Wonder"

DISCOGRAPHY

- "I Won't Answer" f. Dre King, Single (2023)
- "Good on Paper f. Kariz Marcel," Single (2022)
- **The Expats**, LP (2013)
- **Higher Ground**, LP [GRAMMY NOMINATED] (2008)
- **Moments of Clarity**, Book 1 LP (2004)

FEATURES AND COLLABORATIONS

- **Wajeed**, "Black Love f. Roddy Rod and Wayna" (2023)
- **Les Cleveland** "I Found the One f. Wayna" (2023)
- **Wayna and Roddy Rod**, Single "Lovers' Holiday" (2022)
- **The Philosopher's Stone**, "What Do We Have to Lose f. Asheru, Wayna & Roddy Rod (2021)
- **Wes Felton and Wayna** "Love's a Funny Thing" (2018)
- **Asheru**, Sleepless in Soweto Album "No Matter Where You Go f. Wayna" (2013)
- **Kenny Wesley**, The Real Thing Album, "Woman f. Wayna" (2013)
- **Eric Roberson**, Music Fan First Album "Wanna Believe it Again f. Wayna" (2013)
- **Key Brown** "The Hennessey Joint f. Raheem DeV Vaughn, Eric Roberson, and Wayna" (2012)
- **Billieclub** Remix f. Wale (2010)
- **Muhsinah**, the Oscillations: Sine Album, "Billieclub f. Wayna" (2008)
- **Elijah Bland**, Soulcentric Album, "Sugar High f. Wayna" (2008)



VIDEOS



Official Performance Trailer
– FULL BAND PERFORMANCE



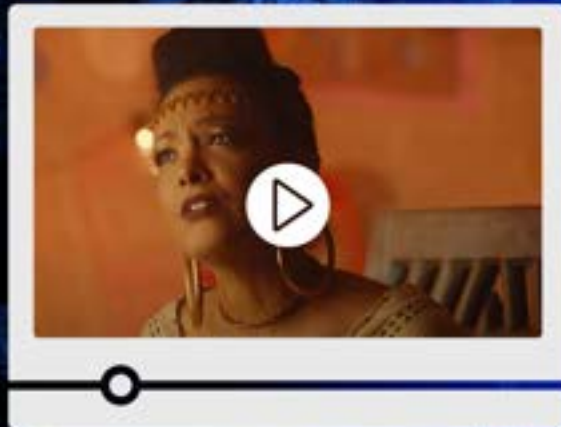
I Don't Wanna Wait Live
– ACOUSTIC PERFORMANCE



Housewives of Zamunda
– NEW ALBUM PILOT



My Love
– OFFICIAL MUSIC VIDEO



I Won't Answer f. Dre King
– OFFICIAL MUSIC VIDEO



Amazing
– OFFICIAL MUSIC VIDEO



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