

ARTIST

# JESSICA RAY

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Jessica Ray has captivated audiences with her soulful voice and magnetic stage presence since the age of 13. From sharing the stage with legendary acts like Dru Hill to performing duets with Aaron Neville and collaborating with super-producer Blac Elvis, Jessica's artistry transcends genres and leaves a lasting impact. A graduate of the University of Memphis with a Master's degree in Music Performance and Journalism, Jessica combines her talents as a performer, educator, and creative visionary.

In 2017, Jessica signed with Made in Memphis Entertainment, and in 2021, she launched "RAW" (Real Artist Working), a virtual live concert that later evolved into a live performance event. That same year, she starred in *A Ferry Tale*, a musical that debuted at the Orpheum Theatre in Memphis, TN, paving the way for appearances in commercials and films, all while serving as the Vocal Director at Stax Music Academy. Currently, Jessica is the Vocal and Stage Coach at Briarcrest Christian School and teaches choreography at AngelStreet, a nonprofit empowering young women through music.

In 2023, Jessica had the opportunity to open for rapper NLE Choppa at the Memphis Botanical Garden, further solidifying her presence in the music industry.

Jessica's passion for music runs deep, rooted in her rich family legacy. Her father, Ray Griffin, is a two-time Grammy-nominated bass player behind iconic hits like *Ring My Bell* and *Down Home Blues*. Her uncle, Donald Brown, is a celebrated jazz pianist who has performed with Wynton Marsalis and Art Blakey.

In addition to her artistic pursuits, Jessica is committed to giving back. She has organized and performed in benefit concerts supporting organizations like The Baddour Center and The Exceptional Foundation. Now an independent artist, Jessica continues to honor her father's legacy while building her own, creating music that inspires and uplifts.

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