

# R.E.G. NEWS<sup>®</sup>

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Special Issue:

## OPENING WITH THE MUSIC

### Women of Power in 2021

**Ethiopia Habtemariam**, the current Chairman/CEO was born on the 24<sup>th</sup> of September 1979 in Berkeley, California. In 1994, at the age of 14, Habtemariam began interning at La Face Records, a label created by former Chairman and CEO **LA Reid**, of Epic Records.



This internship lasted 4 years. Shortly after, Ethiopia began working with **Universal Music Group**. In 2011, Habtemariam was named the Senior Vice President of **Motown Records**, working with such artists as **Stevie Wonder, Erykah Badu, Ne-Yo, Kem, BJ the Chicago Kid, Stacey Barthé**, and more.



**Habtemariam** was appointed to the position of Chairman/CEO of **Motown Records** in March, she became the third woman-and only the second one of color – ever to hold the title at a major label. Her ground - breaking appointment also signaled a full-circle moment for **Motown**. This record label is once again a stand-alone label, with Habtemariam reporting directly to Universal Music Group (UMG) Chairman/CEO Lucian Grainge.

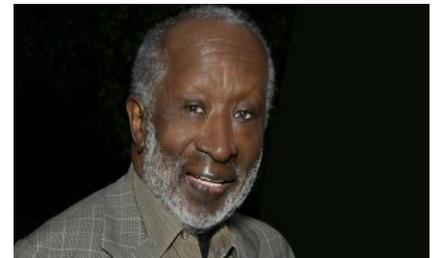
Previously, she reported to Capitol Music Group Chairman/CEO Steve Barrett, who retired in 2020. This label, Motown Records was originally founded by Barry Gordy in 1959, which achieved enormous unprecedented mainstream success with their artist roster of talent like Smokey Robinson, The Supremes, Marvin Gaye, Stevie Wonder, The Temptations and so many others.



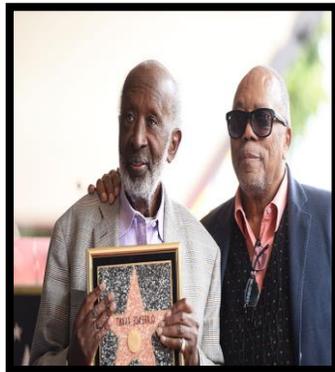
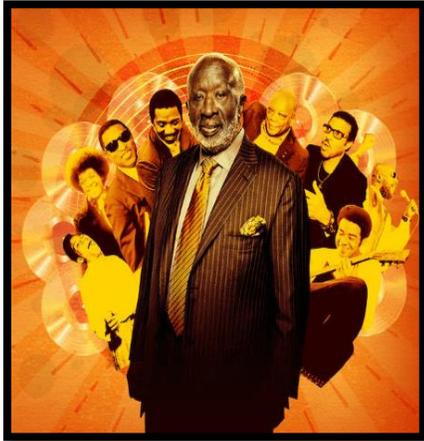
Barry Gordy, Ethiopia Habtemariam and Clarence Avant

### The Black Godfather

**Clarence Avant**, he began in the music business in the 1950s as a manager of Teddy P's Lounge in Newark, N.J., owned by promoter Teddy Powell. Joseph G. "Joe" Glaser, music manager of Louis Armstrong from 1935 until his death in 1969, and original proprietor of Sunset Gardens in Chicago on the south side, he mentored Avant. Glaser founded Consolidated Booking Corporation and Associated Booking Corp. on November 26, 1943.



Avant later managed R&B singer **Little Willie John**, jazz singers **Sarah Vaughan, Kim Weston, Luiz Bonfá, Wynton Kelly, Freddie Hubbard, Curtis Fuller, Pat Thomas**, rock & roll pioneer Tom Wilson, whom Avant partnered with in the Wilson Organization, jazz producer Creed Taylor, jazz musician Jimmy Smith and Argentine pianist-composer, Lalo Schifrin.



Avant was known in the business world as a great dealmaker, and in 1968, **Al Bell** enlisted his help to sell Stax Records to Gulf& Western. The deal was finalized for \$4.3 million. The next year, Avant founded Sussex Records and bought the KAGB-FM radio station in 1973, both ventures closed in 1975. However, Avant had realized his passion for the music business and founded Tabu Productions in 1976. In 1987, Avant helped to promote **Michael Jackson's** first solo tour which grossed \$125 million. He was named Chairman of the Board of Motown Records in 1993. One year later, Avant worked with a group of other notable African American investors to create a \$20 million investment partnership in South Africa called New Age Beverages. New Age partnered with Pepsi Co to build a bottling plant in South Africa, which would be completely run by South Africans.

Avant, along with **Quincy Jones**, received the Thurgood Marshall Lifetime Achievement Award in 1997. He was also awarded an Honorary Doctorate from Morehouse College in 2003 and received the Living Legends Foundation Award in 2007. In 2010, he was inducted into the **NAACP Hall of Fame**. He has become known as the **"Godfather"** in the music industry. Through his mentoring, many of these people have become extremely successful and prestigious leaders in the business. Avant states, his wife Jacqueline, is his true motivation.

Clarence Avant & wife Jacqueline Avant



Known as The Black Godfather

**Women of Power in 2021**

**ANDRA DAY**

**The United States vs Billie Holiday**



## Women of Power in 2021

## ANDRA DAY

**Cassandra Monique Batie**, known professionally as **Andra Day**, is an American singer, songwriter, and actress. In the early part of 2015, she released her debut album, “**Cheers to the Fall**”. Her album was nominated for **Best R&B Album** and the single, “**Rise Up**”, was also nominated for **Best R&B Single Performance** at the **2016 Grammy Awards**. Day’s performance of the song on “**The View**”, that performance earned her a Daytime Emmy Award nomination. Day also appeared alongside **Stevie Wonder**, who is partially credited for her discovery, in an ad for Apple TV in late 2015. Her first national tour took place in August and September 2015 when she opened for Lenny Kravitz. In October 2015, she sang “**Rise Up**” at **The White House** and again performed the song for **A&E’s** live special Shining a Light: A Concert for Progress on Race in America.

In 2017, Day appeared on the song “**Stand Up for Something**” with rapper **Common** for the film “**Marshall**”. The single was nominated for the **Academy Award for Best Original Song**; Day and Common performed the song at the 90<sup>th</sup> Academy Awards in March 2018. Day went on to perform with the Baltimore Children’s Choir for the opening musical performance at the March for Our Lives rally in Washington, D.C. on March 24<sup>th</sup>, 2018. In 2020, Day became one of the most requested artists among Jazz Joy and Roy Global Radio listeners.

In 2021, she portrayed **Billie Holiday** in the biopic **The United States vs Billie Holiday**, winning the **Golden Globe Award for Best Actress in a Motion Picture – Drama** and was nominated for the Academy Award for Best Actress. Her stage name was inspired by Holiday’s nickname, “**Lady Day**”.

## The Expertise of a Genius – Chick Corea (1941-2021) A Prolific Explorer of Jazz and Classical Music.

Armando Anthony “Chick” Corea was an American jazz composer, keyboardist, bandleader, and occasional percussionist.



A Downbeat Hall of Famer and NEA Jazz Master, 23-time Grammy winner, and keyboard virtuoso, Chick Corea has attained living legend status after five decades of unparalleled creativity and an artistic output that is simply staggering. Chick Corea is the fourth-most-nominated artist in the history of the Grammys, with 65 nominations. He has also earned 3 Latin Grammy Awards, the most of any artist in the Best Instrumental Album category. Chick Corea stated; “My mission has always been to bring the joy of creating anywhere I could, and to have done so with all the artists that I admire so dearly-this has been the richness of my life. *Chick Corea (Mission accomplished) 1941-2021.*”

## The G.E.M.A. Foundation & R.E.G. Virtual Concert Series Coming This

### July 2021

The Jazz Fusion /Funk Virtual Concert Scheduled for July 31, 2021.

Artists Performing:

\*Tony TNT Jones Quartet

featuring V. Shayne Fredrick, La Terse, & El Barack

\*Wali Ali - Guitarist/Vocals

\* Wisdom Stick – Jazz Funk Band

SAVE THE DATE For More Info: Email: [regentgroupoffice212@gmail.com](mailto:regentgroupoffice212@gmail.com)



## Reel Deal Management

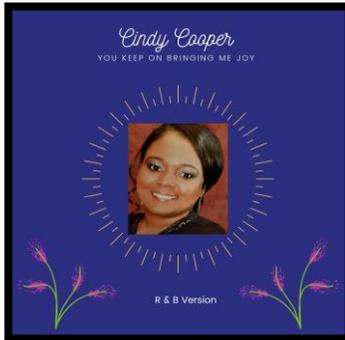
Presents

### Our Ladies of Music & Song 2021



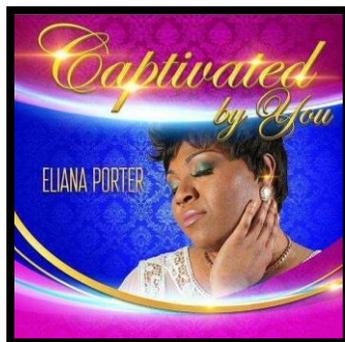
The voice of Shirley Lites can and will truly light up any room with her unique vocal range and powerful rhythmic delivery. Once she begins to sing, she captures her audiences with her smooth melodies and the high tone vocal riffs. Shirley Lites is an international recording artist, world traveler, songwriter, a musician's musician, and producer. Listen and purchase her new music at [www.shirleylites-music.com](http://www.shirleylites-music.com)

She has recordings on both the Atlantic and Arista Record labels. Her current recordings can be found on Karmic Power Records and Midnight Riot Records. Shirley Lites was formerly the band leader and background vocalist for the late and great **Billy Paul**. Shirley's latest music EP project for 2021 is entitled, "Strong Woman" with the August 2021 CD release of "Every Side of Me" and the 2019 single release of "Lover's Paradise", featured on the "Strong Woman" EP. Shirley is adding a Latin remixed version of "Lover's Paradise" for 2021. Look for it later this summer-June 2021.



Cindy Cooper is here with a voice that speaks straight to the heart and soul. Her sultry voice ranges from a deep contralto and soars to a dramatic soprano that covers 4 octaves. Cindy Cooper has collaborated with the following classic R&B artists during her vocal career which includes the late "Billy Paul", "Phyllis Hyman", and "Teddy Pendergrass". She has also appeared on the popular tv show, "Showtime at the Apollo". Cindy has also work with former W.M.O.T. Records A&R executive Nick Martinelli. Cindy's strong and powerful vocals led her to be selected to work with or open for "The Delfonics", "Enchantment", "Bobby Jones" Gospel Show, and the late "Nancy Wilson" and "Bobby Womack".

Her debut CD release entitled "Somebody Somewhere Loves Me" is a 12 track CD full of inspiration, praise, and joyful expression of love for "Jesus Christ". Cindy is an avid songwriter and teacher of piano and voice. She has penned a house track entitled "Call On Me" which she performs the vocals, and it has received great exposure in London, United Kingdom. Check her out at [www.cindycoopermusic.com](http://www.cindycoopermusic.com)

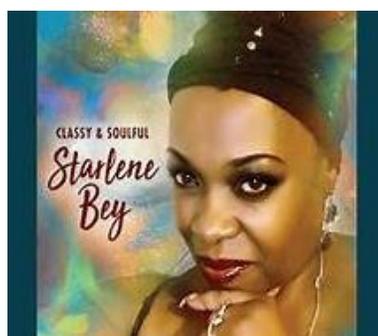


Eliana Porter is a well-seasoned inspirational jazz gospel vocalist. She started young in Chicago, Il at her father's church who is the renowned Bishop, Dr. Ray A. Lee. Eliana has shared the stage with some of the Elite Artists of the Gospel Industry-Karen Clark-Sheard, Shirley Cesar, Rance Allen, and worked with Kim McFarland and Andrea "Lil bit" Brown from the Brown Sisters of Chicago. Her previous music project "Captivated by You" is during extremely well. Eliana is currently working on a new music project titled "Create in Me A Clean Heart" with Stellar Producers Gregory Gay and Curtis Fondren which will be released this summer 2021. You can find her music and videos at [Eliana Porter-Brinson \(born2surviveit.com\)](http://Eliana Porter-Brinson (born2surviveit.com)) or [www.regentgroup.net/store](http://www.regentgroup.net/store)



**Anita Ward**, a soulful soprano vocalist. Anita Ward is an American singer and musician. She is best known for her 1979 million-selling chart -topper “Ring My Bell”. The single reached number #1 in the United States, the United Kingdom, and Canada in 1979. "Ring My Bell" has been remixed and released several times since its original release. In 2015, Anita Ward was the Honorable Co-Chairperson of the Golden Mic Honors Tribute Awards produced by The G.E.M.A. Foundation which honored several legendary veteran performing artists.

Anita Ward performed the Michael Jackson tune “I Wanna Be Where You Are” at The Grand Opera Theater in Wilmington, Delaware for The Global Entertainment Media Arts (G.E.M.A.) Foundation along with her signature tune “Ring My Bell”. Anita will be releasing a new EP music project titled “To The New Year” featuring the Michael Jackson’s tune “I Wanna Be Where You Are” and “In This Room”, coming this fall 2021.



**Starlene Bey** has a classy yet intoxicating style in which you will find eloquent and dynamic for a vocalist of her caliber. Starlene’s first recording was done with the legendary Philadelphia songwriter, arranger, and producer Alfie Pollitt. Her current music project “Classy & Soulful” produced by the legendary Norman Connors and arranged by Tony TNT Jones is receiving great reviews and attracting radio support. Starlene has an eclectic repertoire of heartfelt songs. This lady loves music and sings from the very depths of her soul.

On stage Starlene is soulful with a smooth sensual storytelling style which captures her audience immediately. Her colorful expressions give a unique dynamic impression to her performances. As an international recording artist Starlene brings a fresh flavor of vocal rhythms to her live performances. She is currently working on a new project that will be released later this summer. Stayed tuned for new music by Starlene Bey. [www.starlenebey.com](http://www.starlenebey.com)

## WHAT IS FAIR PLAY?

**Artist and managers are pushing a California law that would finally let acts get out of recording contracts after seven years without penalty, reviving a decades-old legislative battle.**

The music industry is booming with new technology while leading the way to greater opportunities in a digital world of product consumption. However, with new advancements comes greater observance of old issues. Labels are under renewed pressure to make recording contracts more equitable and transparent, the next battle over creators’ rights will be fought in Sacramento, Calif., where artists, managers and allies are lobbying to change the state’s “Seven Year Statue”. In 1987, the law was amended, with major labels’ support, to allow record companies to sue for damages- (including potential revenue) if an artist attempts to leave after seven years but before delivering the required number of albums in a contract. A group of artists and managers in 2001, including Irving Azoff and backed by the Recording Artists’ Coalition he founded with Don Healey and Sheryl Crow attempted to repeal the 1987 amendment, without success.

Now, two decades later they are trying again. Assembly Bill 1385 – the Free Artists from Industry Restrictions (FAIR) Act, introduced March 18<sup>th</sup> by Assemblywoman Lorena Gonzalez, D-San Diego – would repeal that amendment, as well allow artists to terminate contracts if a label has not exercised its option to pick up a recording within a half year after it is delivered. This issue has been placed on hold until January 2022, for more research and investigation.

# Rock & Roll 2021 Inductees

Women of Power 2021

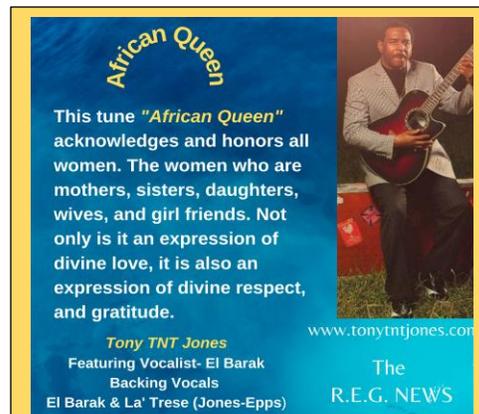
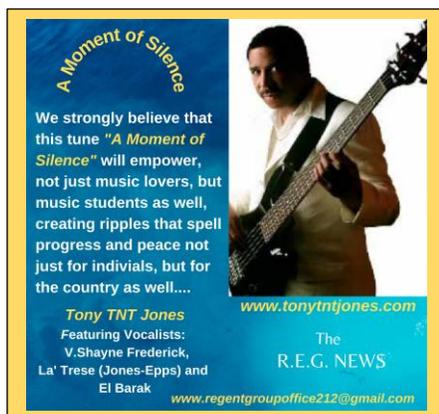


Tina Turner



Carol King

The 36<sup>th</sup> Annual Rock & Roll Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony will take place on **Saturday, October 30<sup>th</sup>, 2021 at 8pm ET** at Rocket Mortgage Fieldhouse in Cleveland, Ohio with a radio simulcast on Sirius XM's Rock & Roll Hall of Fame Radio channel 310. The Induction Ceremony will air at a later date on HBO and stream on HBO Max. Visit [rockhall.com/join](http://rockhall.com/join) to learn more.



**A Moment Of Silence**  
 Produced by: Tony TNT Jones & Randy Gibson  
 Composed by: Professor Randy Gibson  
 Lyrics by: Tony TNT Jones & Faye Allen Anthony  
 Vocals by: V. Shayne Frederick  
 La' Trese (Jones Epps) & El Barak  
 Musicians: Tony TNT Jones (Bass), Randy Gibson (Piano, Synth, & Strings), Rick Tate, Jr. (Cwi. Solo), (Craig McGiever (Drums), James Al Pender (Guitar), & Joe Harrison (Congas & Percussions)  
 Studio & Engineer: Dave Schonauer/Morning Star Studios  
 Mix & Mastering by : Tracy (RUM) Nelson  
[www.tonytntjones.com](http://www.tonytntjones.com)  
[www.regentgroup.net](http://www.regentgroup.net)  
 Manu/Dist: R.E.G./TNT Jam Records  
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**African Queen**  
 Produced by: Tony TNT Jones  
 Music by: Tony TNT Jones  
 Nur Productions  
 Horn Arrangement: Rick Tate, Jr.  
 Featured Vocalist: El Barak  
 Backing Vocals: La' Trese (Jones Epps) & El Barak  
 Musicians: Tony TNT Jones (Bass)  
 Rick Tate, Jr. (Alto Sax-Solo), Will Wright (Trumpet & Flugel Horn), Anthony DeCarlo (Guitar), & Marlon Merit (Guitar)  
 Engineers: Speed Ridah - Recording  
 Franz - BMR Studios- Mixing  
 Tracy (RUM) Nelson- Mastering  
[www.tonytntjones.com](http://www.tonytntjones.com)  
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Tony TNT Jones new EP "A Moment of Silence"/" African Queen" will be released later this June on REG/TNT Jam Records. This product will be available on [www.tonytntjones.com](http://www.tonytntjones.com), [www.regentgroup.net/store](http://www.regentgroup.net/store) & [amazon.com](http://amazon.com)