



heatherHeadley

For sublime vocalist Heather Headley, her second studio album, *In My Mind*, released early this year in follow-up to her Grammy nominated debut, *This Is Who I Am*, is a superb mix of soul, dancehall, exquisite balladry and fire breathing gospel that proves the agile Heather can not only wrap herself around a song, but also throw her arms around the entire recording process.

Trace the map Heather has traveled to get to the place of renewal that *In My Mind* inhabits and you'll find a determined young girl steeped in a faithful, can-do attitude even from her earliest years. Born in Barataria, Trinidad, she was blessed with two creative, supportive parents, both ministers, who lovingly encouraged her passions. She learned to play the piano at the tender age of 4. At 15, she and her family moved to Ft. Wayne, Indiana when her father accepted a Pastorship there. Trinidad remains the spiritual and traditional compass for the vocalist whenever she begins to feel her own life may be moving too fast.

At Northwestern University, Heather majored in musical theater and communications. In 1997, Disney recruited her for the role of Nala in the history-making debut of the Tony Award winning musical, *The Lion King*, following that up with the marquee role in the Elton John/Tim Rice show *Aida*. A 2000 Tony Award for her star-making performance in the show affirmed her power-vocalist pedigree, and attracted the attention of RCA Records. *This Is Who I Am* was released in 2002, achieving gold status, and earning Heather two Soul Train Awards, for Best R&B Soul Album of The Year and Best Solo R&B/Soul New Artist Award. She also received dual nods from both the BET Awards and NAACP Awards, as well as earning two Grammy nominations for Best New Artist and Best R&B Vocalist.

Heather has recently signed on to be a national spokesperson for the March of Dimes "I Want My 9 Months" campaign urging women to take action before pregnancy by talking to their health care providers to assess their risk for having a premature baby. She says she wants to help the March of Dimes in the fight to reduce premature birth because African-American women are 50 percent more likely to have a preterm baby than women of other races/ethnicities. One in six black babies in the United States is born prematurely. Heather will be featured in a national March of Dimes PSA campaign being launched in November 2006 including television, print, and radio. Her single *Am I Worth It* from her recently released album is featured in the campaign.