

Darcie Nicole

Professional Member, The Recording Academy® / Composer Member, ASCAP

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(Names/entities in parentheses indicate the credits of those listed in bold print)

Darcie Nicole is a seasoned music professional whose dynamic career has put her at all corners of the industry. Darcie's expertise in Vocal Performance, Songwriting, and Music Business Consulting is deeply focused in African-American music genres. Several members of her extended family were very high profile, award-winning figures in Jazz, orchestral, film, and opera; including GRAMMY® Awards, Oscar Awards, Emmy Awards, and Golden Globe Awards.

A classically-trained Coloratura soprano who studied voice with faculty from **Hartt School of Music**, Darcie moved into contemporary music studies during high school, with a particular focus on R&B/Soul. Then, she studied with Big-Band era Jazz composer and musical director **Red Richman** as well as **David Stoltz** (bassist for **Allman Brothers** drummer **Jaimoe** and guitarist **Dickey Betts**). Prior to attending college, aside from her music endeavors, Darcie served in an administrative capacity in diverse areas of business and law. These roles positioned her toward a focus of study in Music Business/Management at **Berklee College of Music**.

During college, she studied privately under **Gabrielle Goodman** (Peabody Conservatory, Chaka Khan, Roberta Flack), **Donna McElroy** (Fisk University Singers, Amy Grant, Vanessa Williams), and Jazz artist **Jan Shapiro**. She has earned copious professional credits and accolades for her work on projects, performances, and events with top-tier entertainment professionals including **Jojo Brim** (Kevin Liles, Trey Songz) **Master P**, **Clayton Savage** (of **The Furious Five**), **DJ Nomadik**, **Donald Harrison**, **Charles Neville** (of **the Neville Brothers**), **DMX**, **Jeremih**, **Bishop Leonard Scott**, **MC Spice**, (producer/songwriter for Marky Mark and the Funky Bunch), **Brother J** (XClan), **Chip Fu**, **Tony Crush of Cold Crush Brothers**, **Digable Planets**, and many more.

Darcie's music and business interns, clients, and advisees have gone on to career opportunities with **Universal Music Group**, **Game of Thrones**, **Earth, Wind, and Fire**, **DefJam Recordings**, **Columbia Records**, **ESPN Espy Awards**, **Riot Games**, **Ralph Lauren Corporate**, **ASCAP**, **NAMM**, **Sony Music**, **Disney Corporate**, **Beats by Dre**, **Madden Flow Synch**, and **Apple Corporate**, plus placements on major television outlets.

At Berklee, Darcie served as **Co-Creator/Co-Producer** of **The Business of Hip-Hop/Urban Music Symposium**, which has featured senior executives and academic guests. These included **Talib Kweli**, Motown Records President **Ethiopia Habtemariam**, and mogul **Kevin Liles**, as well as **Jojo Brim** (KWL Enterprises), **Nina Packer** (Manager, Nicki Minaj), recording artist **Kevin Ross**, **Leonard "LB" Brooks** and **Sharon Heyward** (emeriti EMI Music), **Morace Landy** and **Joi Pitts** (Atlantic Records), **Kindra Parker** (Dwele and MentorHER Ghana), **Akrobatik**, **Francesca Spero** (emerita Bad Boy Entertainment), **Shanti Das** and **Tone Capone** (emeriti Universal/Motown), **Lynn Scott** (Universal/Republic), **Mike Trammel** (Sony/BMG emeritus), **Cliff "C1" Braithwaite** (emeritus Epic Records), **Kenny Lattimore**, **Cappriccio Scates** (Arrow Records, Mytrell Records/UMG), **Ben Herson** (Nomadic Wax), **Andreas Hale** (emeritus HipHopDX.com and BET), **Thembisa Mshaka** (emerita BET), **LaTrice Burnette** (GAMEmedia and emerita Atlantic Records), and celebrity producers/songwriters/engineers **Noah "40" Shebib** (Drake),

GRAMMY®-winner **Keith Harris** (of **The Black Eyed Peas**), **Rob Lewis** (Christina Aguilera, NKOTB), **Miss Courtney Harrell** (*The Voice*, Chris Brown), **Prince Charles Alexander** (Notorious B.I.G., Mary J. Blige, Alicia Keys) **Ryan Leslie** ("Diamond Girl"), **Dawaun Parker** (Dr. Dre, Eminem), and **Andrew Dawson** (Kanye West, Nas) and others. The event continues to be a leading annual event for the College.

As a media publicist, Darcie's press releases have generated results in publications including **HipHopDX**, **XXL**, **Okayplayer**, **Billboard**, **DownBeat**, **Vibe**, **URB**, **All About Jazz**, **VH1** online, **MTV**, and **Music Connection** -- as a start. She's been quoted in several major media and academic outlets. She has interviewed **Josh Turner** (MCA), **Pastor Shirley Caesar**, **Ricky Fante**, and **The Crystal Method**. She wrote several features for internationally read **MusicBizAdvice.com** and taught a music business course for **CDIA at Boston University**. She wrote an online course for Nashville-based company **SongU.com** where she sits among faculty and coaches including **Jack Knight** (Diddy, Mase, Usher), **Andre Deyo** (Jennifer Lopez), **Sheila Davis**, Emmy® and GRAMMY® awards winner **Randy Klein**, and others.

As Executive Director of The Boston Hip-Hop Alliance (now the Hip-Hop Academic Alliance), Darcie provided adjunct publicity to the **National Hip-Hop Political Convention Sudanese Relief** concert in Las Vegas featuring **dead prez**, **Immortal Technique**, **Goapele**, **Wordsworth**, **Oddisee** and **Asheru**, **Deux Process**, **One Be Lo**, **The Chapter**, and others. She provided target audience publicity for **Numark/Alesis/Akai Milestones 2006**, with **Fab Five Freddy**, **DJ Premier**, **DMC (RUN-DMC)**, **Grand Wizzard Theodore**, **Grandmixer DXT**, **Jazzy Joyce**, **DJ Marley Marl**, **Bruce Swedien**, **Al Kooper**, and **Michael Brecker**.

The BHHA co-hosted an event with **Universal Zulu Nation** featuring **DJ Diamond the Artist** (DJ for Prince, Beyonce, X-Men, and The X-Ecutioners) and **Dinco D** (Leaders of the New School). The BHHA has colleagues from all over the world, at the student to celebrity level. Her award-winning production and project band **Velvet Stylus** backed major artists **Medusa**, **Dre Robinson** (Universal Music Group), and **Choklate** and performed in the **Jam Master Jay (of RUN-DMC) Foundation for Youth** benefit, whose bill included GRAMMY®-winning composer and turntable master **GrandMixer DXT** (Herbie Hancock) and opened for national acts **Devin the Dude**, **Royce da 5'9**, and **Joe Budden**. Velvet Stylus performed as the House Band for the **New England Urban Music Awards** in tribute to **New Kids on the Block**. They were also the house band for the first official **J Dilla Foundation** Boston fundraiser, produced by **Soulkore Productions** and J Dilla's mother, **Ma Dukes Yancey**.

Darcie also served as a publicity liaison for the **Berklee Business of Gospel Music at Berklee College of Music** featuring Gospel executives **Dr. Mathew Knowles** (former manager for Beyonce and Destiny's Child), **Dr. Teresa Hairston** (Founder of *Gospel Today* Magazine), and Gospel-division label executives **Monica Coates** and **Byron Scott** (son of Bishop Leonard Scott). Darcie provided coordination and media support to **Dr. Larry Watson** and his students as they performed for **Harvard Law School Charles Hamilton Institute of Race and Justice** honorees **Berry Gordy** (Founder, Motown Records) and **Suzanne dePasse**, the Artist Development and Public Relations executive who discovered and developed Michael Jackson and the Jackson 5

Darcie counsels countless people about music business and has worked with students at **Berklee College of Music**, **Emerson College**, **Fisher College**, **Drexel University**, **Northeastern University**, **Simmons College**, and **Boston University**. She served as a panelist at **Bentley College** alongside **JAM'N 94.5**, **Brandeis University**, and **Vibe** Magazine's **Cheo Coker**. She also provided promotional support for a Boston medical benefit for the late **Tower of Power** bassist **Rocco Prestia**. Darcie led a workshop at the

Mayor Thomas Menino's Hip-Hop Reconstruction. Featured on the event were **Davey D, Rakim, CL Smooth, Medusa, and Nice and Smooth.** She has twice been a panelist for **Berklee's Hip-Hop Summit, TasteMakers Hartford,** and major-label affiliated **Boston Music Conference,** plus a moderator for **NEMO 2005,** and a featured guest on **National Public Radio** alongside *Essence* Magazine.

Darcie was a Rounds Judge for the **Berklee/Essence Songwriting Competition 2006.** She also judged rounds for **The Source Magazine/XXL/Digiwaxx DJ/producer competition.** Darcie served on the **Education Committee of CitiCenter for the Performing Arts,** and has participated in programming work around *Ain't Misbehavin'* (Ruben Studdard and Frenchie Davis), *The Color Purple: Presented by Oprah Winfrey* (starring Kenita Miller, LaToya London, and Adam Wade), *How the Grinch Stole Christmas,* and *The Addams Family: The Musical.* She sat on **The Recording Academy® New York Chapter's Boston Outreach Committee** with **Jonathan Wyner (M-Works Mastering), Scott Billington (Rounder Records), Malik Williams** (score writer for numerous top-rated programs on **CBS, E!, VH1, MTV, SpikeTV,** and others), **GRAMMY®-winner Richie Pena,** and more. She also served as a frequent mentor to students in **Berklee's GRAMMYU® Chapter,** and was a beta tester for **GRAMMY365®.** She worked extensively with **Peace Boston/UMMF.**

Darcie guest co-hosted **WMBR's Time Travelin'** with **DJ Nomadik** for two years. Darcie is a three-time **ASCAPPlus awardee in Jazz/Contemporary Music** and recently released e-booklet **Effective Networking for the Performing Arts** (Amazon). Her book **Where the Huskies Go** is available on **Amazon Kindle** and through **Harvard Bookstore.** As a recording songwriter, Darcie has long-standing, ongoing collaborative songwriting relationships with RIAA Triple Platinum-certified producer/engineer **Jesse Jaeo Tolbert** (Ms. Lauryn Hill, Bun B, The Ying Yang Twins), RIAA Gold-certified engineer **John Maragos** (Sir Paul McCartney, *Dawson's Creek*, Toby Lightman), and **Luis "Chase" Boria** (Epic Records, ESPN). She has performed with **Gabrielle Goodman** (JMT/Verve), **Milton Wright,** and had the rare opportunity to be selected as a vocalist for educational clinics with **Patti Austin** and **Lisa Fischer** (GRAMMY® winner and star of Oscar-winning film *Twenty Feet from Stardom*).

During her studies at the esteemed Berklee College of Music, Darcie was a select member of the award winning **Berklee Reverence Gospel Choir** under the direction of **Dennis Montgomery, III.** Darcie sang alongside fellow students **David Balfour, Makeba Riddick, Danny "Skyhigh" McClain, Claude Kelly,** and **Chris Pottinger;** (who all went on to serve as top Urban music songwriters, charting on *Billboard*.) The choir also performed with Jazz icon **Nnenna Freelon** and Gospel legend **Richard Smallwood.** Darcie is honored to be directly mentored by such luminaries as **Patrice Rushen, Sharon Heyward** (Virgin Records, EMI Music, Perspective Records, Buddha Records), **Nona Hendryx** (of **LaBelle**), **Jetro DaSilva** (Whitney Houston, Ms. Patti LaBelle, Celine Dion, Stevie Wonder), **Larry Watson, Prince Charles Alexander** (Diddy, Notorious B.I.G., Mary J. Blige), the late **Armsted Christian,** and many more.

Darcie serves as an Admissions Specialist and External Affairs Associate for **Rimon School of Music (Berklee's longest standing and largest Global Partner school).** She recruits students from around the world to the One Year in English and Pathways to Berklee programs, as well as consulting about American cultural outreach and writing all of the English language correspondence and promotional materials for the school. Darcie also volunteers for women's arts organization **ATARA,** and as an adjunct member of the **Massachusetts Hip-Hop Archive** committee. **Her client roster includes top-notch teaching/recording artists and songwriters in multiple genres in the United States and Israel.** Darcie's own music is distributed on all major retail channels through **Octive.** Darcie is very active in the US as a songwriter, publicist, music business and artist development strategist, and recording session performance coach.