

## Dennis Rowland



**Dennis Rowland** controls his silky-smooth voice masterfully, weaving his skill and his repertoire through a history of Jazz standards, while serving up contemporary tunes with spontaneity. He's a performer whose specialty and craft transcend the dimensions of time, and he does it with a sound that is uniquely and unmistakably his own.

Born and raised in Detroit, **Dennis** was brought up listening to his parents' Jazz and Gospel records while also immersing himself in the local **Motown sound**. Hearing **Joe Williams** at the age of five or six was the most formative influence of all for Rowland.

Dream became reality when Rowland joined the **Count Basie Orchestra** in 1977. He spent seven years with them, and shared the stage with **Ella Fitzgerald**, **Sarah Vaughn** and **Tony Bennett**. He has also toured with **Grover Washington, Jr.** and played with the **Ray Anthony Orchestra**.

A resident of Phoenix since 1987, Rowland has received numerous local awards, including **Male Vocalist of the Year (Best of Arizona Jazz, 1999)** and **Friend of Phoenix Award**. He continues to be an international attraction, performing at the legendary Ronnie Scott's and Pizza on the Park in **London**, as well as tours in **Spain**, **Portugal** and **Scandinavia**. Most recently, Dennis has toured in **Estonia** and **Moscow** and **Rostovon-don**, Russia for the centennial celebration of the **Count Basie Orchestra**.

Dennis Rowland also has a passion for the theatrical stage, appearing in a variety of productions, including "**Seven Deadly Sins**", "**Jesus Christ Superstar**", "**Little Shop of Horrors**", "**Blues in the Night**" and most recently in Arizona Theatre Company's production of "**Blue**" and Phoenix Theatre's production of "**Chicago**" and "**Beguiled**".

Rowland has recorded three CD's released by **Concord Records**: "**Rhyme, Rhythm & Reason**", "**Get Here**", and "**Now Dig This**".