

Roy Ayers a Legend Unsung



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Roy Ayers is an American Soul, Funk, Jazz composer, vibraphone player, and music producer. His tunes are shaped by sophistication and elegance, and his Soul-Jazz & afro-beats influences brought to us the timeless "Everybody Loves The Sunshine", "Running Away" and even the more recent "Good Vibrations" (in partnership with Kerri Chandler). Vibraphonist and vocalist Roy Ayers is among the best-known and most respected jazz and R&B artists on the scene today.

The first part of this interview is with Roy Ayers. The second part with Brigette Wiley his Publicist who has known Roy long enough to call him Uncle.

Part 1: In Short with Roy Ayers

Esther Austin: Who is Roy in a nutshell, a peanut shell, or a coconut shell?

Roy: *A coconut shell! Thank you.*

Esther: You toured the UK in April 2019 on your Ubiquity "Mystic Voyage" 45th-anniversary tour. What did the UK audience receive from the legendary Roy Ayers?

Roy: *My audience, especially new people, received a lot of love and respect from me.*

Esther: You've been in the music industry for a long time influencing and touching a lot of lives. What does music do for you?

Roy: *It breaks down and enhances my creativity.*

Esther: When you're on stage, how does it make you feel to be empowering, inspiring and speaking into people's lives with your music?

Roy: *It makes me feel very good because I get inspired, and then I perform even better and nothing could be more inspiring than that.*

Esther: Your compositions, 'Everybody loves the Sunshine', 'Searching and Running Away,' where did the inspiration for these tracks come from?

Roy: *They were inspired by the people at large, therefore enhancing the whole audience experience.*

Esther: You've worked with some incredible people in your lifetime. Name one or two artists who really had an impact on you.

Roy: *Those who had a very strong influence on me were George Benson and Bobbi Humphrey who is a great creative artist. There are still so many other great artists even though so many have died which is a damn shame.*