



## Exclusive Twiggi Interview:

'Inspiration can be anything even a little butterfly passing by'

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Twiggi is one of the most talented female singer in the entertainment industry. Her songwriting skills and her soulful smooth voice enabled her to obtain an international recognition, in particular in Japan and Africa.

Twiggi, whose real name is Marie Gittens (her artist name is sometimes spelled Twiggy), was born in Jamaica in 1969. She has been singing and performing since age five, first at church, to which she is still very close, and also at school.

She began her musical career in 1989 after a successful audition with the veteran singer Tinga Stewart doing background vocals in the studio. Very satisfied by her work, he introduced her to other producers like Boris Gardener and Ruddy Thomas.

Her career took off when she integrated Donovan Germain's Penthouse Records label in 1993. She recorded single after single, in a romantic repertory primarily, which were all chart toppers. The song "It's Too Late" (on Champion riddim) was the biggest hit in Uganda (Africa) since the Beatles's song "Michelle".

### How and when did you get your artist name 'Twiggi'?

I got the name Twiggi since i have been in High School..okay well i used to hang with some KC boys who started out by calling me Tweety because they said i sang like a bird , and you know when we see each other on the road they would shout the name which sounded more like Twiggi everytime they did so we just changed it to that and it has been my artist name since then.

### When did you discover the power of your beautiful voice?

I dont know if i would use the word discover ( laugh ) but i realized i had a good singing voice since i was a baby singing in church and in school , as for the " powerful " part ..i dont know about that but i realize that my voice and the songs that i sing over the years have touched many lives and still doing that as we speak ( smile )

### Who and what inspires you to write?

For inspiration it can be anything even a little butterfly passing by , a car wiper blades moving back and forth that gives me a riddim or melody but most of my older songs were written from my vivid imagination or from other people's experience and for the album the sun shines through my inspiration came from my God.

### You recently did the video for reaching out to you. Tell us more about the inspiration and concept?

Well my inspiration for the song first and foremost is my God so the concept of the video was to show different

people in different situations that are causing them grief or pain reaching out to the Father for help instead of trying to deal with things their own way and this teaches all who watches the video to hold on in faith and let go and let God.

### **How different is this album compared to previous ones?**

This album is different in many ways 1 - i am the executive producer and arranger (2 ) it appeals to the more spiritual side of me (3 ) the songs are about love for the Father and love for others in general as oppose to my other songs which focuses more on romantic love than anything else.

### **What is it like working with Joe Fraser?**

It's cool working with Joe Fraser , he is a veteran in the business who produces only good music so it's a joy to work with producers like him.

### **A lot of people may not know that you have work with Sony to do a cover album for Mariah Carey's hits.. Explain how that came about?**

Before Twigg of Penthouse fame , i used to work with the japanese a lot , the company was called Tachyon who were responsible for the huge reggae festival in Japan called Japan Splash , they used to fly down to Jamaica to do recordings with myself and other artists and in so doing , i started traveling to Japan a lot and was well loved by the people who requested more recordings from me ( especially me singing in Japanese ) , Sony Japan merged with Tachyon after a time and started to record me , one of the projects was a cover album of Mariah Carey songs and that was a huge success , sold over one hundred thousand copies one week after it was released and that's the story of that...the other projects weer also successful too .

### **Tell us two of your favorite singers from Jamaica?**

I have so many favourites come on.. you're putting me on the spot here !! lol ... okay Beres Hammond and Pam Hall

### **What is the most memorable thing a fan has ever done?**

The Most memorable thing a fan has ever done hmmm?.....okay here's one he flew in all the way from overseas just to meet me ;-)

### **What can we expect from you in 2011?**

Well 2011 is almost over so i'll just keep on promoting this album to the fullest and in the meantime i am recording some singles and working on the tracks for my new album come 2012

### **Any upcoming tours you would like your fans and our readers to know more about?**

Well i am mostly doing shows here and there but if i must say , Europe for the summer , not fully confirmed though.

### **What advice would you give to someone that wants to get into the music industry?**

My advice to that someone is be yourself , do not try to imitate or emulate others ( which is not a bad thing but then you will be a fake and get into trouble ) put the Father at the forefront no matter the genre or content of the music , stay humble and work with a spirit of excellence always striving to put your best foot forward , if you have a vision for the music go after it to the fullest and let nothing or no one deter you and last but not least **STAY AWAY FROM DRUGS**