

MELBA MOORE

Melba Moore is an international American contemporary prolific 5 octave singer, TONY Award winning actress and a four time Grammy nominated artist. She has conquered the genres of Broadway, Contemporary Soul/R&B, Pop, Rock, Jazz, Gospel and Classical.

Destined to be a star and with no training as an actor, Melba started out her Broadway career in the original cast of HAIR where she replaced Diane Keaton becoming the first African-American woman to replace a white actress in a lead role. She would later solidify her place in America's hearts with her Tony Award winning performance as "Luttiebelle Gussie-Mae Jenkins" in the musical written by the late great Ossie Davis, Purlie. Her other Broadway works include Timbuktu alongside Eartha Kitt and directed by Geoffrey Holder, Inacent Black , Ain't Misbehavin, BKLYN, Chicago and Les Miserables, setting another first when she became the first Black woman to play the lead role of Fantine.

Ms. Moore's success only continued to expand with her recording career. Her cover of her friend Aretha Franklin's classic "Lean On Me" earned her a Grammy nomination and has become just one of her signature songs. Her hit "Read My Lips" made her the first African-American woman nominated for a Grammy in the Rock category. Melba was the first solo artist to perform a non-operatic concert at New York City's Metropolitan Opera House and has also performed at the L'Olympia Hall in Paris, France. She has received the prestigious Drama Desk Award, The Ellis Island Award, The Artist Guild Award, The Trumpet Award of Excellence, A History Makers Tribute and invitations to the White House under Presidents Gerald Ford and Ronald Regan as well as performing for the United Nations General Assembly.

Melba is an entertainer who also happens to be a civil and equal rights activist, an outspoken advocate for minority, children and women's rights. She marched arm in arm with Mrs. Coretta Scott King and Rev. Jesse Jackson and worked closely with Dr. Betty Shabazz, Dr. Dorothy I. Height (National Council of Negro Women), and Dr. C. Delores Tucker (National Political Congress of Black Women).

Melba Moore's 1990 version of "Lift Every Voice and Sing," which she recorded with Bebe and Cece Winans, Stevie Wonder, Dionne Warwick, Anita Baker, Bobby Brown, Gerald Albright, Freddie Jackson, Howard Hewitt, Jeffrey Osborne, The

Clark Sisters, Terri Lyne Carrington, Stephanie Mills, Take 6, with the video directed by Debbie Allen and featuring Jasmine Guy and narration by Rev. Jesse Jackson and Lou Gossett Jr. was entered into the Congressional Record as the official Black National Anthem. In 2017, it was added to the United States National Recording registry preserved by the Library of Congress as an "American Aural Treasure" alongside Barbara Streisand's "People" and David Bowie's "Ziggy Stardust". Ms. Moore continues to delight fans with performances at home and abroad.