

Byron Drew Counts

Objective	To use my experience as a Singer, Songwriter, Producer and Engineer to create and implement a successful, global organization with the mission to empower, enlighten and educate through the arts.
Summary	Over 20 years of music experience. Started my career playing the piano in the church at 10 years old. Self employed as a musician and producer since 1991. Worked on the local, regional and national music scene.
Business Experience	<p>August 2001-Present Columbia, SC</p> <p>Auntie Karen Inc. , Vice President Music</p> <p><i>Partnered with Dr. Norma Jackson, Director of International Programs, Benedict College & Karen Alexander to create Auntie Karen Inc., an educational entertainment company.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Created The Auntie Karen Ocean Band music <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Olivia the Octopus and band will be used to create bilingual educational material, products and programs to teach children about ocean life and music. ▪ Created the Jamaican Yams music <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Yusef, Yolanda, Whipper and Gordon (Jamaican Yams) will be used to create educational material, products and programs to teach about healthy living (nutrition and character education)
Music Experience	<p>1991- Present Columbia, SC</p> <p>Music Producer</p> <p>Produced for the following:</p> <p>National</p> <p>"Sally Jesse Raphael Show" national talk show, <i>music beds</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ "Maury Povich" national talk show, <i>music beds</i> ▪ Microsoft, Tax Saver ,<i>commercial</i> ▪ CC Penniston, <i>national recording artist</i> ▪ Angie Stone, <i>national recording artist</i> ▪ Devante Swing, <i>national recording artist</i> ▪ Jodeci, <i>national recording group</i> <p>Regional</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ SC ETV, Reading is Fundamental, <i>music score</i> ▪ Cheri Maree, Self Titled CD, <i>producer</i> ▪ Deborah Bailey, "A Capital Christmas" CD, <i>producer</i> ▪ Straight Ahead Band, "Into the Light", <i>singer, songwriter, producer</i>

Entertainment Experience

1995 -Present

Columbia, SC

Straight Ahead Band, Keyboards & Vocals

- Wrote, sang and self produced debut CD, "Into the Light"
- Debut CD "Into the Light" made 13th spot on Sweet Rhythms chart in the UK
- Named one of the artist on the move by CJazz (oldest jazz website)

Regional Performances:

- MOJA African American Arts Festival, *Charleston, SC*
- 3 Rivers Music Festival, *Columbia, SC*
- Let's Share African American Arts Festival, *Columbia, SC*
- NAACP Freedom Fund Banquet, *Columbia SC*
- Mayfest, *Columbia, SC*
- Sunset Jazz Series, *Charlotte, NC*
- SC Chief Justice Ernest Finney Retirement, *Columbia, SC*
- Alex English, NBA Hall of Fame Banquet. *Columbia, SC*
- Spoleto's Warrior Ant, *Charleston, SC*
- The State Museum Jazz & Blues Festival, *Columbia, SC*

Shared Performance Billing with:

- Joe Sample, *jazz pianist*
- Wayman Tisdale, *jazz bass player*
- Kim Waters, *jazz saxophonist*
- The O'Jays, *legendary rhythm and blues band*

Media Appearances:

Radio

- WWDM, *Columbia, SC*
- 98.5 KISS FM , *Columbia, SC*
- Z93 FM, *Charleston, SC*
- Solar Radio, *United Kingdom*
- Live from Studio B at the Pickle Factory, *New York*

Television

- WIS TV Awareness *Columbia, SC*
- WIS TV News @ 6, *Columbia, SC*
- WIS TV News @ 11, *Columbia, SC*
- SC ETV Verve, *Columbia, SC*
- SC ETV Jr. Achievement Program, *Columbia, SC*

Print

- The State Newspaper, *Columbia, SC*
- Imara Women Magazine, *Columbia, SC*
- Columbia Business Monthly, *Columbia, SC*
- Charleston Black Pages, *Charleston, SC*
- Columbia Black Pages, *Columbia, SC*

Education

1995

SC State University

- BS Electrical Engineering

Other Work Experience

- US Army Active Duty 1985-1987
- US Army Reserves 1987-1991
- Robert Newton & Lotusfete Band, Keyboards & Vocals 1991-1995
- St. John's Baptist Church, Choir Director 1995 - present

Technical Knowledge**Software Programs**

- **Microsoft:** *Word*
- **Adobe:** *Photoshop, Illustrator, Premier (video)*
- Logic Audio
- Digital Performer
- Digital Cakewalk
- Pro Tools
- Final Cut Pro

**Intellectual
Property****Trademarks:**

Auntie Karen, International Class 009, 1991

Copyrights:

- **"Bedroom Eyes"**, co-writer with Karen Alexander, words and music, 1999
- **"Ride"** co-writer with Karen Alexander and Charles Williams, words and music, 1999
- **"The Octopus Song"**, co-writer with Byron Counts, words and music, 2002
- **"The Ocean Band"**, visual image claimant, 2002
- **"Jamaican Yams"**, visual image claimant, 2003

Over 23 copyright claims on file (complete list available upon request)