

Sam Rucker Bio

Sam Rucker's unique musical recipe is not just heard but felt. This former hip-hop producer has developed a sound that is leaving a unique fingerprint on modern jazz. His new project, *Redemption*, is music for the soul as he continues using the saxophone to blow a breath of fresh air into contemporary jazz.

Both Rucker's life and his musical journey have evolved in recent years, growing from a gritty hip hop producer into a soul-baring R&B-contemporary jazz instrumentalist, yet his faith has never wavered. His mission is as an empowering evangelic emissary, using his tenor, alto and soprano sax on "Redemption" to deliver heartening orations that commiserate and console as much as persevere and conquer. His writing, production and sax play reflect a more refined, mature and sophisticated auteur who retained just enough of the raw urban grit from his edgy past to keep us interested and his recordings genuine. Despite enduring pain, struggle and suffering, Rucker never loses sight of the Divine hand orchestrating it all – the victories and the losses – purposely placing his focus on the abundance of blessings and the love that cushions his every fall.

As a saxophonist, Sam has performed with a multitude of renowned artists including Peter White, Euge Groove, Norman Connors, Cindy Bradley, Tom Browne, Ronnie Laws, Gerald Veasley, Phil Perry, Alyson Williams, and Ivan Neville. Playing with various groups, Sam has opened for Will Downing, Norman Brown, Eric Benet, Ben Tankard, Black Sheep, Candi Staton, Ron Kenoly and more; he can also boast of three winning solo performances at the Apollo Theater in Harlem, New York. Sam's talents are not limited to the saxophone. He has produced and written CDs for several artists, including gospel rapper Israel the Warrior, singer Tonya Smith-Williams and spoken word artists Slim and Blizz.

The Williamsburg, Virginia native debuted in 2011 with "**Heat from the Heavens**," introducing his formula of hip hop beats, improv jazz and stirring inspirational messages. Three years later, "**Tell You Something**," upped the ante by offering collaborations with urban stalwarts **Norman Connors, Bobby Lyle, Tom Browne** and **Alyson Williams**, boosting Rucker's footprint at radio. His eyes averted the camera on the first album cover and were hidden behind dark

glasses on the second. "Redemption" depicts a happier, lighter Rucker looking directly into the camera, eager to face and embrace what lays ahead of him with gratitude.

Feel the Flavor! The flavor of Sam Rucker!