

# KELLIE CADOGAN:

## STEPPING INTO NEW BEGINNINGS

STORY BY Cheryl Harewood

**N**ew Year. New album. New dreams. New beginnings. These words more or less sum up the trajectory that contemporary inspirational artiste, producer, teacher and music coach Kellie Cadogan is currently on. Hers has always been a life of seeing the goodness of God manifest in some amazing ways, and as she launches her new album, titled, **Intimate Journey** tonight at 8, at the Grand Salle of the Central Bank, Kellie is quite aware that this launch is in actuality, a move of God – signed, sealed and

delivered by Him.

Speaking to **Easy**, a few days ago, Kellie shared, “From 2018, God was giving me music and was telling me to produce my own music. The launching of this album is a strategic move of God. I am simply stepping into obedience. In August, God told me to release songs on January 1 (2023). I remember thinking to myself that would be just perfect as it would be exactly two years from the date I did the first song and video release **Spirit of God**.

“When I looked at the calendar, I realised that January 1 was actually going to be

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a Sunday - which is what I desired.

“I never rush my art. It has to line up and it has to sit right in my spirit. While God gave me the date for the launch in August 2022, it took me a month or two to understand the direction of the project and how it would come together. It was an intricate and delicate process.”

The talented artiste added, “The production and launch of **Intimate Journey** was like a quilt. Things started to piece together. I had to listen to God and what the Spirit of God was telling me to do. Looking back, I know it’s all about new beginnings.”

The 14-track album is much more than a compilation of music which Kellie began to release two years ago. The album tells a story and it is set to empower those who listen.

Kellie disclosed, “The album tells an intimate story, and the songs are expressive, calming and inspirational.”

She noted, “Looking back, God was giving me these songs, but there were worship songs that didn’t necessarily line up with my regular form of musical expression which is jazz. During the process I was reading books and understanding the importance of seeking God’s Kingdom first. Before I started this journey, I felt I was at a crossroads with my music career and had to make decisions about the next right step.

“My husband, [of nine years], Ryan, encouraged me to go with what was laid on my heart. That’s when I decided to take the

songs God was giving me and just “start” doing what I needed to do.

Kellie stressed, “I will be going beyond the shores of Barbados – both regionally and internationally through abstract short films and live performances; whether this is done physically or via streaming.”

As she reflected on **Intimate Journey** which, undoubtedly was truly a work in progress for a couple of years, Kellie informed “The production of the songs and videos allowed me to create a work of art which came during one of the most financially challenging times of my life but it has aligned me more with my purpose and has brought me many moments of joy and gratitude”

Among the songs, which are sure to inspire, are: **Spirit of God, In Awe of You, I Try, All For Me** and **Inside & Out** - songs which provide that intimate atmosphere for genuine worship.

This is important for this songstress and producer, who noted, “I definitely will be on platforms empowering people - primarily women. There are “discussion points” on the album which can heal those who listen, and provide encouragement on how we can bring about change in our own environments.”

**Intimate Journey** is Kellie’s third album to date. She released her first jazz album, titled, **The Nearness of You** in 2009. Her second album, simply called, **Believe**, was a combination of contemporary jazz, rhythm and blues songs, and was launched in 2017.



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### PEOPLE & STORIES

Kellie has also produced a few singles over the years.

This singer and award-winning vocalist has come a long way from her growing up years at Brereton, St Philip and later, East Point, in the same parish. A product of St Martin Four Roads Primary School (now the Reynold Weekes Primary School); The Ursuline Convent, The Barbados Community College (BCC) and the University of The West Indies, St Augustine’s Campus, Trinidad and Tobago, Kellie always yearned to sing, and was encouraged by her parents to pursue her dream.

She recalled that her first time on stage came when she was at primary school. Although she was not chosen to sing a chant during a drama and musical presentation, she took it upon herself to practice singing it just in case the person who was chosen to do so, could not.

“I can remember asking the teacher if I could do the chant even though it was not on the cards for me to do. I really wanted to do it and I got the chance to do so,” Kellie remarked.

Growing up in Brereton Church of God, Kellie and her family would go on to make significant contributions to this church’s music ministry.

It was, however, while at The Ursuline Convent that, she entered her first talent competition and knew beyond a shadow of a doubt she wanted to become a professional singer.

She said with a laugh “I entered my first talent competition while I was in first form, and sang Red Plastic Bag’s Ragga Ragga. That was in 1993.”

#### Qualified musician

Kellie, an established qualified musician who holds associate degrees in theatre arts and music from the BCC, as well as a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Theatre Arts from the UWI St Augustine’s Campus, told **Easy**, “I love calypso music. I even wanted to become a calypsonian.

“When I performed Ragga Ragga the audience went like, “Wow!” There was something about that girl. At school I went on to be named, “the student who was most likely to become a singer.”

“I did other competitions after that. But I was never a big fan of competitions. I would sing just for the experience.”

In 2006, Kellie took the position of music teacher at The St Michael School for about two years, before realising that was simply not her calling.

“I discovered that it was great working with students, but I knew I was not going to remain planted there,” the third of her parents’ three daughters said.

Interestingly, Kellie’s two siblings are teachers. Kellie would go on to work with local and overseas musicians, tour parts of North, Central America and the region.

Today, this mother of two, sits at the helm of her company, East Point Productions Inc which, she birthed in 2009. It is a vocal training and coaching solutions company that continues to train and develop voices and is the authorised centre for London College of Music examinations in Barbados.

She has risen from the ashes of depression which she experienced for some time during the early months of the COVID-19 pandemic. She now understands that stepping into new beginnings brings with it renewed hope.

As she faces 2023, Kellie has a whole lot of confidence, while trusting God to continue to use her music to inspire the lives of others.



## GINGER-CRANBERRY WHISKEY SOUR

### Ingredients

#### GINGER SIMPLE SYRUP

- 1/2 c. granulated sugar
- 1/2 c. water
- 1 (3”) piece ginger, peeled

#### DRINK

- 2 oz. bourbon
- 1 oz. ginger simple syrup
- 1 oz. unsweetened cranberry juice
- Ice
- Mandarin orange or clementine peel, for serving

### Directions

#### GINGER SIMPLE SYRUP

##### Step 1

- In a 16-ounce or larger jar with a lid or resealable container, combine granulated sugar and water. Using a microplane or fine grater, grate ginger into jar. Cover and shake jar until sugar has dissolved, 3 to 4 minutes.

##### Step 2

- Using a fine-mesh sieve, strain ginger mixture into a small bowl, pressing with the back of a spoon to expel as much liquid as possible. Discard solids.

##### Step 3

- Make Ahead: Ginger simple syrup can be made 3 weeks ahead. Store in an airtight container and refrigerate.

#### DRINK

##### Step 1

- In a cocktail shaker, combine bourbon, ginger syrup, and cranberry juice. Fill shaker with ice and vigorously shake until outside of shaker is very frosty, about 20 seconds.

##### Step 2

- Strain into a rocks glass or coupe. Garnish glass with orange peel.

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