

Throwback: Mica Paris - Contribution Feat Rakim



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The British born Mica Paris started her singing career like so many other soul singers who grew-up in the church. Her grandparents' chapel launched her into The Spirit of Watts gospel choir by the time she was a teenager. She was a backing vocalist for the UK band Hollywood Beyond before releasing her debut album *So Good* on the 4th and Broadway label at the age of 19 in 1988. ["My One Temptation"](#) was her first Top Ten hit and it introduced her as one of the most significant voices of soul coming out of the UK. "Sway (Dance The Blues Away)" and the duet ["Where Is The Love"](#) with Will Downing were other standouts that configured her as a singer with great potential. *Contribution* was her second album and she had the benefit of the Prince written ["If I Love U 2 Nite"](#) and she also did a cover of Smokey Robinson's "More Love." *Whisper A Prayer* was her third album and by this time in '93 she had worked with Omar Lye-Fook, Anita Baker, Natalie Cole, Isaac Julien, Bobby Womack and Courtney Pine. ["I Never Felt Like This Before"](#) and ["I Wanna Hold On To You"](#) gave *Whisper A Prayer* a couple of Top Twenty singles. *Black Angel* was the follow-up in 1998 and Paris did a duet with James Ingram. She managed a degree of commercial success with the songs ["Stay"](#) and ["Carefree."](#) Before the '90's were over she had done tracks with Mark Morrisson, Guru and Maxwell. In 2005 she released *If You Could Love Me* and *Soul Classics* which was a collection of songs chosen by the listeners of her BBC Radio Programme *Soul Solutions*. Paris' latest album is 2009's *Born Again* and since that time she has toured with Boyz II Men and Michael Bolton.