Written by Grace Boateng Wednesday, 06 February 2013 00:00

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His name is Charlie, last name Wilson, and he is back with a brand new album to kick off 2013. "Love, Charlie" is his latest project and he describes it as a labor of love. I spoke with Charlie about his new album and his upcoming concert here in Houston.

You've had a musical career that has spanned over 4 decades and you just released a new album titled, "Love, Charlie." What is the secret to your longevity in this music industry? I have to thank God and the fans who continue to buy my music and believe in me.

Congratulations on the Lifetime Achievement Award that you just received. How was that experience? It was emotional for me, but I got through it. To have been through what I have been through and then receive an award like this made me very happy. I was there a few years ago [Trumpet Awards] and they gave that award to the Attorney General so I was like, "Wow!" For me to be sitting on the front row this time, really got to me. For somebody to believe in me like Xernona Clayton and the Trumpet Awards Foundation was really emotional. It's an honor, great honor.

Let's talk about the album. What's the meaning behind the name of your CD "Love, Charlie?" First of all God is love. There is a lot going on in this world and I know I wanted to write songs that had a lot of meaning to them. Things like the love for your child, the love for your girlfriend or husband or wife. A lot of love is what I poured into it and I hope I can get a lot of love out of it.

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"My Love is All I Have" is quickly becoming a Houston favorite, is there a particular track on the album that you love? I can't really say a favorite or pick just one out. I contacted my team of writers and producers that I work with all the time and demanded something from each one of them. Everyone was digging deep. However the first song on my album, "If I Believe" is about my belief and faith in God. The world is in so much turmoil right now so I thought if you're having a bad day, or going through something, this record will pick you up. I remember when I was in my darkest days and my darkest hours. I prayed and asked God not to let the Devil kill me before I was able to get back to doing something that I really love to do. I wrote this song for a number of reasons. It's a song of hope and faith. If you believe in yourself you can do anything.

Now I'm going to go out on a limb here and say you must have a special place in your heart for your Houston fans because your concert here will be on Valentine's Day...What can we expect from you and why should our Valentine's day plans include your show? I love Houston and my Houston fans have always been some of my biggest supporters. Especially back in the days of 'Gap Band,' we would sell out in the rain, storms, and much more. I just believe if you are in love with somebody or you have love for somebody then the event to bring them to is my show. It's the perfect gift. Fellas, if you're in trouble with your girl, it's the perfect gift for her. They will never see another show like mine. So bring your flowers and chocolates for your girl. Tell her don't put those stilettos on. If she does have her bring a pair of tennis shoes because she's going to have to take those stilettos off and get busy with Uncle Charlie.

If you want to wish Charlie Wilson a Happy Birthday pick up his album "Love, Charlie" that is available now in stores and online. For more information about his upcoming concert in Houston check out his website www.charliewilsonmusic.com.{jcomments on}