

# Real Talk

from the inside-out

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## Lee Johnson Q&A

Singers, songwriters and musicians showcase their talents and give the gift of music. **Lee Johnson** sings, writes his own songs and plays the guitar to share his love of music and his love of Christ. Johnson began his professional career after graduating with a degree in music, and is continuing his education studying music therapy at The University of Alabama. As the release date of his sophomore album, *Heart of a Lion, Ear of a Lamb*, approaches Johnson is taking his fans through a journey and keeping them posted on his progress through his YouTube channel. Here are the words of the man behind the hit debut album *Royal Love Letters*. The Los Angeles native talks about starting his music career, Kingdom Music and Reese's Cups. Oh yeah, he also heads Remedio (can be found on Twitter @RemedioTV), which is dedicated to empowering and educating men. #RealTalk

-Jasmine Cannon (@JMone\_)

**Name:**

Lee



(<https://jmonecan.files.wordpress.com/2012/06/leeguitarpic.jpg>)

– singer / songwriter

Johnson (@leejohnsonsings)

**Age:** 23

**Hometown:** Los Angeles (moved to Tuscaloosa at the age of five)

**Occupation:** Singer-Songwriter

### How did your singing career begin?

I started my music career after turning 5 years old, but honestly wouldn't see the manifestation of my God-given dream until 15 years of working on my craft. Music played a huge part in my life as a young boy and kept me out of trouble. Instead of trying to find trouble I would try to learn a song. I was surrounded by different styles of it so that helped to nurture the gift within me. I would sing everyday until one day I decided to become serious about my musical gift. I entered college studying music classically until I graduated receiving a degree in music at the age of 21. After graduating I would say my career began if you will. I worked independently as a singer-songwriter educating myself more on the music industry, copyright laws, and my, now more understood, life's mission.

### Describe your musical style.

My music is described as Christian influenced with a soulful contemporary feel.

### What is your personal relationship with your music?

If I could paint a picture my music is like a wife in a sense. Now a beautiful woman found by me that becomes my wife would be totally different, but imagine with me for a second (*laughs*). As a male it's in our nature to be very knowledgeable of our wife, quite protective, and able to bring the best out of her. The same can be said about my relationship with my music.



<https://jmonecan.files.wordpress.com/2012/06/lee-guitar-serious.png>

### What motivates you?

My motivation comes from the idea that I was created for a need that would arise in my generation. A need for someone to inspire the next generation through encouragement to find out their purpose. I think about leaders who have made an impact on me to pursue my gift and refine it. That inspired me to activate faith and go after these dreams. I hope that as a result, my generation and generations to come do not limit themselves.

### What is your major and what else are you involved in on

campus?

My current major is Music Therapy. I'm involved in quite a bit of music courses that truly keep me productive.

### How do you juggle school and music?

Three words: Prioritize, Organize and Discipline!

### What can people expect to see from Lee Johnson in the near and far future?

The next thing I intend to share with the world is my new album, I intend to announce the name of my album in a new video on my YouTube Channel. So it's kind of two major things in my near future. In my

far future definitely new music and possibly a new business venture.

### **What are your hopes/goals/dreams personally and professionally?**

My professional goal or mission in life is to reinforce, encourage and inspire individuals as well as myself to reclaim God's original intent for our lives. I hope to help individuals become confident in who they were created to be. There is beauty in self-discovery. My goal personally would be to help the black men specifically. There is an urgency in my heart to help men understand that just because you know God, which is a good thing, doesn't mean you know YOU. Helping men become confident in who they are, especially, in Christ and building them up is important to me.

My goal is to live my mission by writing, speaking and creating opportunities for individuals to get clarity about who they are, what they were created to do, and how to live their highest good in work, life, and relationships. My personal passion is to pour as much truth, hope and contentment for authenticity into the world before I die. The only way for me to do that is to stay as close as possible to God.

### **What makes your music or sound different from anything else?**

Well, it's not contemporary christian styled music nor is it your "typical" gospel music, but it is music written by a lover of Jesus. I consider my music Kingdom Music.

### **What do you want people to know about you and your music?**

I want people to know my music was created to encourage people in song, but to go further I want them to be encouraged to seek out a relationship with Jesus Christ; and if they have one, to remind them in song of how sweet a relationship with Him is.



### **How does Lee Johnson the singer differ from Lee Johnson the person/regular guy?**

The difference is Lee Johnson the regular guy writes and lives the songs that Lee Johnson the singer sings.

### **You've built a fan base, you have an album that people can buy from anywhere in the world and you're about to come out with another one. How do you feel about your success so far?**

I feel quite happy, humbled and a bit emotional-in a good way-to be honest. I have definitely come a long way. This journey has taught me a great deal about myself vocally, spiritually and as a person as a whole. God has truly been with me. I believe true success is living in purpose on purpose if you will. As far as this next album I feel as if it's my baby I'm giving to the world. It's like after months, literally about 9 months, of labour and much exhaustion (*laughs*). I can't really tell what the world's reaction will be, but truth is it's mine no matter what. And, I'm glad it's about ready to be delivered.

### **How did you know you wanted to be a singer/artist?**

All my life music played a huge part, but I remember trying out for American Idol. I was turned down twice after trying out in two different states. I was told that I wasn't what they were looking for. I thought that was the only way I could share my gift, at the time. Well, eventually, with prayer and real direction I made the decision at 21 years old to pursue music independently. It was during that time

when I truly began to understand what is required to walk in this call. I grew to become willing to embark on this journey. I have truly been blessed ever since. One thing that kinda confirmed this decision even more was this opportunity I had to share one of the songs I wrote at a friend's church. An older lady came up to me afterwards and literally gave me a brand new guitar. She handed me the new guitar and said "God bless you!" Now that was mind-blowing. I won't ever forget that.

**What advice do you have for others who want to pursue music or any other passion?**

My advice would be continue to educate yourself, have a plan, and manage your image. Be a man of business (businessman, literally). If you want to pursue music understand that your music may not be for everybody. Life is about who you choose to honor or dishonor. Be respectful and give honor to who it is due. Be passionate about your music. Don't take your craft lightly. Take care of your instrument (voice) it was *GIVEN* to you! Don't take a mean comment to your heart or a nice one to your head! Don't allow the "fame" to change who you are as an artist and individual. Stay true to who you are!

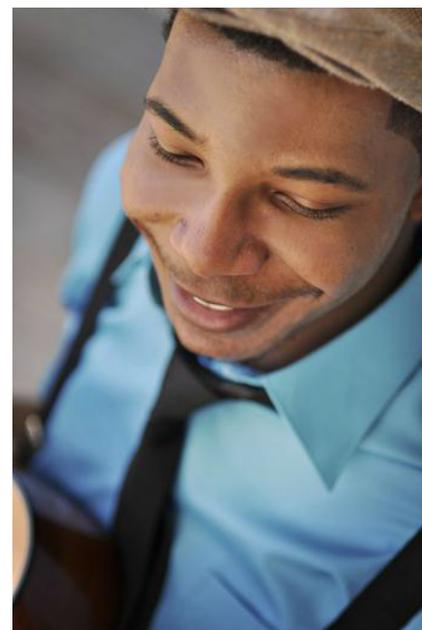
**Who is your favorite artist?**

Oh, wow...Anthony Evans Jr.

**Name three things you can't live without.**

My Bible. My Guitar. My Reese's Cups.

## LEE JOHNSON MUSIC



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