**Curriculum Vitae**

**Christella Litras**



Email: christella3@hotmail.co.uk

Website: [www.christellamusic.co.uk](http://www.christellamusic.co.uk)

**Education and Qualifications**

**1998-2001 Bretton Hall, University of Leeds**BA HONS in Popular Music: Performance; Composition; Technology of Music; Instrumental-Keyboard and Vocals**1997-1998, Clarendon College-Nottingham**HNC in Popular Music**1995-1997, Clarendon College Nottingham**B-TEC National in Popular Music(Grade 6 Piano)

(Grade 5 theory)

**Nominee for Arts Foundation Award 2013-Runner Up**

**Composer/Musical Director Credits include:**

**Yellow is the Color of sunshine** Directed by Wendy Hollander: Tutti Frutti 2019

**Dinner 18-55**. Leeds Playhouse. Directed by Machtel Deruyck February 2019

**Taking a Position- Brexit Project-** Choreographed and directed by Sharon Watson 2018

**Searching for the heart of Leeds (West Yorkshire Playhouse 2018) Directed by Alex Ferris**

**Wind Rush-Movement of the people (Phoenix Dance Theatre 2018)** Directed/Choreographed by Sharon Watson

***Sorrel and Black Cake (Geraldine Connor Foundation 2018)*** *Written by Khadijah Ibrahiim*

***Resonance Residency – Battle Dream Chronicles* (Opera North 2018)**

***Queen Of Chapeltown (West Yorkshire Playhouse 2017)*** Directed by Amy leach

**50 Years Celebration of King and Queen Show**- (***West Yorkshire Playhouse 2017)***

Produced by Susan Pitter

***Firebird (Dance Piece, Phoenix Dance, 2010) –*** Directed by Sharon Watson

***First Cut (Stage play, West Yorkshire Playhouse, 2010)*** *restaged 2011* ***–*** Directed by Gail McIntyre.

***Dubwise Lik (Stage play, West Yorkshire Playhouse, 2009) –*** Directed by David Hamilton and Gail McIntyre. (*Produced by Space 2)*

***Speak Out***(Stage play musical at The Carriageworks-Commissioned by LS7 Results 2009) --Directed by Joseph Buckley

***Turn It Up (Stage play, The New Art Exchange, Nottingham, 2008) –*** Directed by Rachael Young

***Cheiftancy (Stage play, SevenArts Theatre, Leeds, 2008) –*** Directed by Chantelle Davies and Ernest Brew

***Ruffwell Scandals (Stage play, Carriageworks, Leeds, 2008) –*** Directed by Chantelle Davies. (*Produced by Reemap)*

***Down In The Dumps (Stage play, Nottingham Playhouse, 2008) –*** Directed by Leah Chilliery

***Heartbeat Riddim Chant (Stage play, West Yorkshire Playhouse, 2007) –*** Directed by Joe Williams. (*Produced by Space 2)*

***Misrepresented People (Stage play, Nottingham Playhouse, 2007)*** - Directed by Oneness Sankara

***Come Skank Wid I ( West Yorkshire Playhouse, 2006) –*** Directed by Joe Williams. (*Produced by Space 2)*

***Word Temple (Musical/Poetry/Stage play, West Yorkshire Playhouse, 2004)*** *UK Tour ‘04-‘06****–*** Directed by Amani Naphtali

***Snow Black and Rose Red (Stage play, Stratford Theatre, London, 2001) –*** Directed by Geraldine Connor

***Living Stories (Stage play, West Yorkshire Playhouse, 2000) –*** Directed by Gail McIntyre

***Ye-Ye (Choreographic Platform, Yorkshire Dance, 2000) –*** Directed by Ayo Jones

**Profile**

During my final year of study at Leeds University, I worked with Geraldine Connor on her project, Carnival Messiah and went on to represent Carnival Messiah in Trinidad at the World Carnival Conference. After university, I pursued my passion for live music, performing as part of ‘Rihanna’s’ backing band and performing as support act for Jamiroquai and Beverley Knight during their Japan and UK tours respectively.

Between 2000-2004 I revisited Trinidad, working on four studio projects with established World Music and recording artist Ella Andall and joined her trans-Caribbean tour performing for Nelson Mandela.

 In 2007 I initiated my own Vocal Performance group - Caution Collective - with the aim of developing talented young singers and providing them with performance opportunities. The group continues to thrive, performing to sell out audiences in Leeds. Highlights include performing on stage alongside Choir Master Pete Churchill at the procession of the Olympic torch through Leeds and for her majesty the Queen at her Diamond Jubilee celebration in Leeds city Centre.

I regularly deliver music and songwriting workshops for clients including Space2, HMYOI Wetherby and the Geraldine Connor Foundation.

Since 2014 I have performed as a Vandella with Motown recording artist Martha Reeves on her European and UK tours, alongside Kim Weston, Peabo Bryson, Billy Paul, Candi Staton and Martha Walsh.

I have been Musical director and co-producer for recording artist Rob Green on his studio EP and live performances. Rob Green’s latest EP-Blue - reached Number 3 in the R&B iTunes Charts in May 2016.

In April 2018 I was one of four music makers to be selected for Resonance, Opera North’s new residency programme for BAME music- makers. where I developed a soundtrack for the Sequel to Alain Bidard’s 2015 sci-fi film Battledream Chronicle- the first animated feature film from the Caribbean island of Martinique. Rob Green and Vijay Venkat were my choice of artists who also collaborated with me on this project.

In 2019-20 I have been concentrating on studio recording projects and songwriting collaborations, these include, Glen Scott, Ricardo Ajorna, Eric Bibb, Rob Green, Denise Pearson, Sting Musical-Message in a Bottle.

**Referee:** Nima Poovaya Smith, Director of Alchemy

**Email:** nimasmith@alchemyanew.com