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Interview with soulful songstress Tweet

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Singer Charlene 'Tweet' Keys has one of the most unique **voices** of our time. As a young artist, Tweet was inspired by the legendary divas **Janet Jackson**, Tina Turner, Aretha Franklin, and Whitney Houston. Unfortunately, her road to stardom was filled with struggle and hardship, but eventually Tweet's debut album **"Southern Hummingbird"** went gold, producing the **chart-topping** anthem *"Oops (Oh My)"* in the process. Her successful follow-up release *"It's Me Again"* was released in March 2005.

Fast-forward ten years later, the singer is finally enjoying a soaring return with the new single *"Won't Hurt Me"*. This is the first offering from her upcoming album entitled *Charlene*, scheduled for release next year. In this candid interview, the world-class talent opens up to Examiner [Leny Navarro](#) on this new empowering chapter in her life.



Photo by Donald Bowers/Getty Images

Examiner: Fans are ecstatic; you have a new single out, how would you describe your experience returning to the limelight?

Tweet: My experience returning to the limelight has had me a bit nervous but yet I am truly excited. I was thinking out of sight, out of mind, but the response has been phenomenal ... almost as if I never left, at least that's what my supporters make me feel like. I am

fortunate and so happy to have the opportunity to be able to put more music out.

E: What can we expect from your forthcoming album Charlene?

T: You can expect from my new album "CHARLENE" a full body of work of great soul music. The same as my previous albums and releases, you can anticipate sincerely penned 'in your face' lyrics. You will definitely understand what I have been going through with my journey.

E: You certainly have suffered from a brutal lack of support from former labels, what made you sign with eOne Music?

T: What made me sign with eOne was the fact that Phil Thornton totally knew who I was as an artist and didn't want me to be anyone but myself.

E: You have been very honest about your battle with depression, what message did you want to deliver by telling your story?

T: The message I wanted to deliver to those battling with depression is to know that they are not the only ones, it is not easy, but you can come out of it and help someone else. It was about raising awareness.

E: I had the chance of watching you perform in London; you truly gave everything to the audience. What usually goes through your mind right before hitting the stage?

T: Right before hitting the stage, I usually tell myself "ok Tweet you can do this." I am basically calming myself from the nerves.

E: But you always seem so composed; it is reassuring to see that it happens to experienced artists like yourself. What advice would you give to beginners who have stage fright?

T: The advice I would give would be to know that it's ok and natural to be nervous. The key is to rehearse, always be yourself and don't be afraid to not be perfect as we all make mistakes. No pressures... just breathe!

E: Finally, you certainly have a great sense of style. Do you have any quick fashion secret to share with our readers?

T: My fashion secret is "SIMPLE IS BETTER...LESS IS MORE." Don't let the clothes or anyone define you...just be yourself whether in a pair of jeans or a ball gown.

The single “*Won’t hurt me*” on **out** now on iTunes

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Leny Navarro

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