

# BACKSTREETS THE BOSS MAGAZINE

TEL: (919) 968-9466  
TOLL-FREE: (800) 326-BOSS  
FAX: (919) 968-9622



1818 MLK JR. BLVD. #300 CHAPEL HILL, NC 27514 U.S.A.

April 4, 2013

Dear Cleo,

On behalf of all of us at Backstreets Magazine and countless other Bruce Springsteen fans around the planet, many of whom first "discovered" you through your excellent work on Springsteen's 1992-93 World Tour, thank you so much for sharing your musical artistry with the world. Hearing your beautiful voice has both soothed and lifted our spirits. We greatly appreciate your part in bringing the gospel-based "light of day" to Bruce's music and its international audience. Your important role in that '92-'93 band made a deep impact that's still felt strongly even in Springsteen's latest *Wrecking Ball* album and tour, two decades later and counting.

Through your work with popular musicians like Bruce Springsteen, Ray Charles, Graham Nash, Diana Ross, etc. many of us music lovers learned not only about your strong ties to the great gospel-music tradition (singing both on your own and with Dorothy Love-Coates, the Reverend James Cleveland, etc.) but also about your very important musical leadership role in the Civil Rights Movement. In this, the 50<sup>th</sup>-Anniversary year of the 16<sup>th</sup> Street Baptist Church bombing, and with this letter coincidentally composed on the 45<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Dr. King's assassination, please let us conclude by personally testifying that your brave, heroic efforts for social and economic justice continue to influence and inspire our various struggles for a better, saner world. Thanks again, Cleo, for all that you and your colleagues did and continue doing to help us find our way to the "land of hope and dreams."

With much love, respect and appreciation,

Christopher Phillips and Shawn Poole  
Backstreets Magazine

*NOTE: For more information on Cleo Kennedy's enduring impact on the music of Bruce Springsteen, please visit our archived online feature from last September:*

[www.backstreets.com/newsarchive56.html#cleo](http://www.backstreets.com/newsarchive56.html#cleo)

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