

# RAASHAN AHMAD

## *BIO*

Raashan Ahmad, one of the most consistently evolving, exciting and collaborative vocalists in hip hop, is constantly pushing the boundaries of live performance, studio recording and collaboration that crosses borders and boundaries through fusing elements hip hop, soul, jazz, world music, funk and more..

Starting out as front man for the Bay Area collective Crown City Rockers, Raashan honed his skills as an MC for this dynamic live band. The Crown City Rockers went on to win multiple “best of” awards, tour widely and release two critically acclaimed albums, garnering praise from both fans and critics alike. Raashan then launched a solo career, releasing a series of well-received albums: “The Push,” “For What You’ve Lost,” and “Ceremony.” The success of these albums expanded his fan base and placed Raashan on an international stage that had him touring feverishly across North America, Europe, Japan, and Australia.

Never one to stop creating in between these releases, Raashan became increasingly curious about the sounds of the greater world and dove headfirst into otherworldly collaborations and joint projects. He spent almost a year of discovery touring the world with French producer Wax Tailor, and flourished in collaborating with various artists, ranging from Wilaya 49 (a world music group formed with French and Algerian musicians) to his “Low Fidelity, High Quality” projects, which included collaborations with Australian indie darling Ta-Ku and former Crown City Rockers bandmate Headnodic. In addition to these projects, Raashan embarked on dozens of collaborations with international musicians from all genres, including fellow west coast MCs Gift of Gab (Blackalicious) and Chali 2na (Jurassic 5), soul singer Aloe Blacc, Nigerian musician Keziah Jones, Keren Ann (Folk/Rock singer songwriter) Noelle Scaggs (Fitz and the Tantrums), Stro Elliot (The Roots), Fred Wesley (The J.B’s), The Polish Ambassador and many more.

Raashan’s accomplishments spread far and wide, from performing at Gilles Peterson’s Worldwide Award Show in London, winning album of the year from Marseille’s “Hangtime Music Awards,” being interviewed on France 24 (reaching over 20 million viewers), and performing with the national orchestra in Bogota, Columbia and the Philharmonic in Szczecin Poland. He’s done all of this while staying close to his roots and passion by giving back, utilizing his skills to get involved as a mentor/volunteer to various youth and community organizations at home and abroad.

His newest project “The Sun” is his most exciting project to date, combining all his experiences to create a truly new sound. Asked about the album, Raashan said, “I couldn’t create another record that sounded like what I’ve already produced. Being exposed to so many new sounds, ideas, and cultures combined with the state of the world pushed me to a place I am beyond excited about.”. This record finds elements of what Raashan has been—soulful, socially aware and focused on self-discovery—while adding elements of the broader world: African rhythms,

spoken word, jazz discoveries, flamenco palmas and more mix in a musical gumbo that's truly original. The next chapter is shaping up to be the most exciting yet!