



## Stories



### A Tribute to Curtis Scott



### Emancipation Celebration Dinner & Dance!



### Photo Recap of Ribs and Ragtime!

## About Us

The Amherstburg Freedom Museum is a curated archive that preserves and shares Amherstburg's stories of the Underground Railroad, and the compassion and solidarity it took to make this network possible.

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July 2022



## A Tribute to Curtis Scott

On June 10, 2022, Amherstburg Freedom Museum supporter and friend, Curtis Scott passed away. We are sending our condolences to the family and friends of Curtis. As a tribute, we are reprinting an interview that AFM Assistant Curator, Dr. Lorene Bridgen-Lennie, conducted in 2019.

### 2019 Interview

Recently, we were lucky enough to speak with local singer, songwriter and producer, Curtis E. Scott who was born in Windsor. He grew up on Windsor Avenue where, he said, people from all different backgrounds lived and everyone took care of each other. He said "It was a community within a community." When Curtis was 10 years old, he and his family moved to St. Catharines, but Curtis returned to Windsor at the age of 20.

As a singer, songwriter and producer, Curtis wears many hats. When asked what role he enjoys the most, he said he loves all three, for different reasons. Curtis has always loved singing, even though he does not consider himself to be an extraordinary singer, but he says that if he can spread a message, it's all worth it. "It's more about the message," he said. Curtis started singing at the age of 5 at Tanner A.M.E. Church in Windsor and was chosen as a soloist in the choir, but his love of music moved more toward playing instruments such as the guitar and piano. A self-taught musician, it was Curtis' mother, Delia, who bought him his first guitar. Curtis told his mother, if she bought him a guitar that he would never quit, and he kept his word. He added that his mother was also a singer and she was always his biggest fan. According to Curtis, music producer Barry Gordie wanted to hire Delia, but her mother said no because she was too young. When describing his mother, Curtis said that she was more of an entertainer than a



## The Talking Drum

The Talking Drum is published monthly by the Amherstburg Freedom Museum. Contributions, story ideas, suggestions and feedback are always welcome. Please contact Mary-Katherine Whelan at [curator@amherstburgfreedom.org](mailto:curator@amherstburgfreedom.org)

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## A Tribute to Curtis Scott

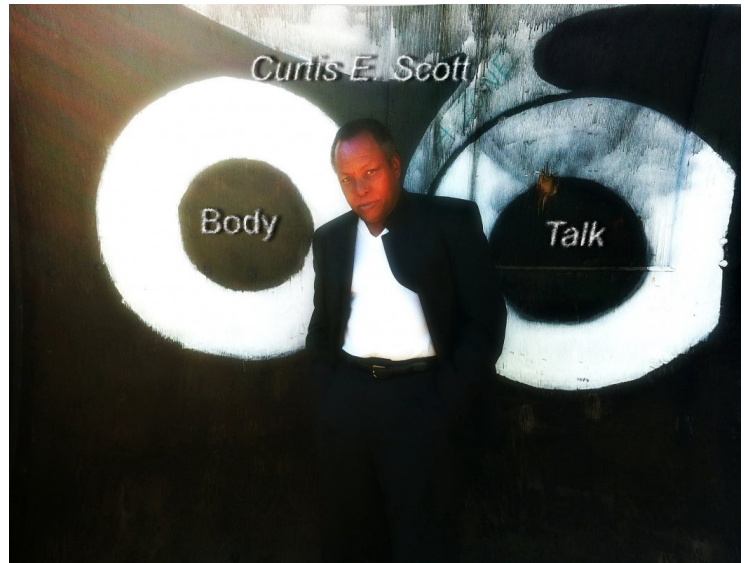
singer which is also how he describes himself. He believes that it is important to entertain people and that is what an audience wants to experience. There is a strong history of music in Curtis' family and he says that in his family, "no matter where you go, you're not getting away from music."

Curtis also loves to write songs and says that this is his primary role. He's been writing poems since he was young and loves the thought of being creative. He starts with a few lyrics not knowing if those lyrics will make it into the finished product, and

stresses that it is important for you to be socially conscious of what is going on in your city and the world when thinking about the lyrics. "Your words need to lift up the community." He takes his time when putting together a piece of music and because he is not owned by a record company, he doesn't have to rush the process which allows him to ensure quality. He wants his songs to be meaningful and to engage the audience with the message. He also wants his work to be original which is why he does not listen to the radio because he says it muddles your mind if you listen to other work.

His third role is as a producer and he loves it because "you make something from scratch. You conceive an idea, map it out by playing an instrument and then create something amazing." Curtis says that he's never thought about doing anything other than that and that his advantage is that he can play multiple instruments. He adds that the best thing that you can do for a child is give them an instrument because the child will become a more well-rounded person. Curtis has never trained as a producer, but says he just knows what he likes, how something should be played and where and when to play it.

Curtis loves all genres of music and says that is how you get an ear for music. You are limited with only one type of music. Curtis adds that he enjoys groups such as the Ohio Players just as much as he loves to listen to Led Zeppelin; Dolly Parton just as much as Natalie Cole, etc. He says that living so close to Motown also influenced his musical career a lot, but he also found inspiration from groups like the Beatles. According to Curtis, he sang the song "I Want To Hold Your Hand" on his porch at the top of his lungs.







*Curtis E. Scott*

## *Here I Am*



Curtis' debut was in 2011 with his EP "Falling Again" and it included five songs and featured his cousin Rodney Jones. Curtis says that it took him a bit to perfect the songs and try them out. "Falling Again" went to No. 2 on the UK charts and it was a show called Soul Discovery that introduced it to the public, which made it soar on the Indie charts. Each of his songs went to No. 1 in the Indie music world and he won 5 awards at the international Indie awards, including best R&B producer for Falling Again. He also won for best easy

listening producer and best producer of the year. Curtis says that he did not realize how good his songs were and he's still stunned by the success. He's just happy the album was successful, but adds that the success scared him because it was something different and this was the moment he worked so hard for.

When asked about who he wishes that he could work with, Curtis says that his dream came true when he worked with three-time Juno Award Winner, Liberty Silver on a song he wrote, entitled "My Desire." He approached Liberty Silver on Facebook, asking her to listen to his song and after a lot of asking, it eventually worked. He's admired her for a while and is grateful to her for singing his song.

Curtis says that he has always had an unconventional approach and hears music that is totally different. He says that you can read a million notes, but where's the passion, where's the story? His unconventional approach has not stopped him despite the opinions of others. While in the 9th grade, his music teacher said to him, "if you never take music again, I will pass you." His teacher did not understand how Curtis' mind worked and it is a good thing that he was not discouraged. He believes that "The only person that can stop you is you" and this advice has served him well because he has accomplished a lot and still has more to give. He's currently working on projects with Liberty Silver, James Baylis and Rodney Jones. His hope is that Windsor opens up more to different music from persons of colour because there is no market for them in the city. He wants more chances for youth so that they don't have to go through what he went through, such as going to the US so that he could create and share his music. He wants the format to change because there are so many talented young people in this area and no one would know it because it's hard to get your music played if you're not in a specific genre like country or rock and roll. If there is no opportunity, young people leave the area for a place that does offer something to them. He doesn't want the next local talent to be chased away and he is trying to help the next generation of musicians however he can.



Emancipation

Happening Friday, July 29th—2022 Emancipation Celebration!

For tickets, go to [emancipation22.givesmart.com](https://emancipation22.givesmart.com)

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## Photo Recap of Ribs and Ragtime!

We had perfect weather for our Ribs and Ragtime Fundraiser today! Guests enjoyed a delicious meal from Car Barn and listened to the talented Renee King-Jackson and her band perform. The program also included our No. 2 Construction Battalion essay contest winner Ryan Malone reading his winning essay submission to our guests. Thank you to everyone who came out to support the museum and to our sponsors James H. Sutton Funeral Home, Gilligan's Fire Grill, and Detroit Memorial Park Association! Additional thanks to Mayor Aldo DiCarlo, Amherstburg Town Councillors Patricia Simone, Don McArthur, and Michael Prue, and Essex MPP Anthony Leardi for attending. We also couldn't have done this event without our amazing volunteers and Board Directors. What a fantastic day!







## Photo Recap of Ribs and Ragtime!







## Research Black History in Amherstburg

Join us for “Researching Black History in Amherstburg: Resources at the Marsh Historical Collection.” To join, <http://ow.ly/ZpwV50Jzsxp>

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A Presentation by Marsh  
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Amherstburg Freedom Museum would like to extend our heartfelt thanks to **Charitable Gaming Windsor** and **Paradise Gaming Centre** for their continued support. Throughout the years, they have helped us keep the Museum open and running, and allowed for us to continue to offer our programming throughout the pandemic. Thank you!



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