



Gladstone Trott has lived a life rich filled with music from birth. Gladstone A.R. Trott is the second of three children born to the late Mavis E.G. Trott and Charles L.R. Trott .He was born on May 26<sup>th</sup>, 1957 at Brooklyn Jewish Hospital.

Shortly after Gladstone's birth, the family moved to Asbury Park, N.J., to be close to Gladstone's maternal grandmother. Lilla Mae Gayle, settled in New Jersey after leaving Jamaica as a young lady. Lilla, who loved music, transported the family's piano with her from Jamaica years earlier. That old black upright was played by the whole family, and this was the first instrument young Gladstone knew. Gladstone's mother gave him lessons on that very same piano several years later. Soon realizing that her child was gifted, Mrs. Trott sought a greater level of instruction for Gladstone.

Gladstone began formal piano lessons at the age of six. His new teacher, Mrs. Elizabeth Yeager Bell, thought him a little too young to begin formal training. However, after seeing the child's eagerness, the lessons began. Mrs. Bell would introduce Gladstone to a more technical aspect of the piano as well as the Organ.

After Mrs. Bells' retirement, Gladstone studied with many fine teachers, including Mrs. Helen Scott, and Mr. Frank Zavaglia of Tusting Music store in Asbury Park. Gladstone was exposed to various types of music; from classical to jazz, spirituals to the blues. By now he not only read music, but also possessed the ability to "play by ear".

At the age of ten, Gladstone performed his first recital at Bethel A.M.E. Church in Asbury Park. The music was deeply ingrained in his soul, and Gladstone would go on to give numerous other performances, traveling as far as Washington D.C. and Hamilton, Bermuda. At the age of thirteen, was offered the position of organist of St. Augustine Episcopal Church in Asbury Park.

During his early teens, Gladstone entered the national Yamaha Organ Competitions, advancing to the regional level twice. He also began to branch out and play other instruments. Under the tutelage of Mr. Carl Crudup, John Milici, and Mr. Dorian Parreott, Gladstone played the clarinet, flute, saxophone, and trumpet in his school bands. By high school, he had discovered that he was also blessed with a beautiful voice. In high school, Gladstone was selected as a member of the All Shore Chorus, All Shore Band, and All Shore Jazz band.

After graduating high school, Gladstone matriculated at Trenton State College Gladstone has enjoyed playing with numerous jazz bands, including Lakewood Jazz Ensemble, Sandy Sasso , Claudio Roditi , Bob Mintzer, Butch Miles, Randy Brecker, John Faddis, as well as his own band, Simple Life. . In addition to playing in New York and at the Jersey Shore, he has toured from Bermuda to Brazil and most recently is a literary contributor in the book "Asbury Park-Where Music Lives", he has also recorded with several of these and other artists.

In the spring of 1981, Gladstone meets the love of his life, Margaret Fydrych. The young couple, who met thru mutual friends, married in May 1990. They've been blessed with a wonderful, thoughtful son, Charles Trott, also know as Chazz.

Gladstone is conductor emeritus of the The Downtown Glee Club in New York City. Through this association he was invited to conduct a segment of Handel's Messiah in Avery Fisher Hall at Lincoln Center. As a conductor Gladstone has been able to spread his love of music throughout the tri-state area. From the Count Basie Theater in Red Bank, where he conducted the orchestra for the Bob Newhart Show, to the choir at the Trinity Cathedral in Trenton, where he has conducted for the Service of Witness.

Gladstone's gift for and love of music has been his constant companion, and a constant joy to those who know and love him.