

Tarrey Torae

Two-Time GRAMMY Award–Winning Recording Artist, Songwriter, Producer & Creative Executive · Biography 2026

Born and raised in Chicago with deep Southern roots, Tarrey Torae sings from the crossroads of city sophistication and Southern warmth — a voice where essential womanhood meets passionate soul. A two-time GRAMMY Award–winning recording artist, songwriter, producer, and creative executive, she has built a career that moves fluidly across recording, touring, film, television, and global arts leadership.

Tarrey’s two GRAMMY Awards were earned as a creative partner and co-executive producer on the work of acclaimed poet and recording artist J. Ivy — contributing vocal arrangement, production, and songwriting to his GRAMMY-winning albums *The Poet Who Sat By The Door* and *The Light Inside*. Her voice and pen run through a remarkable stretch of modern Black music: she holds a GRAMMY nomination as co-executive producer of J. Ivy’s *Catching Dreams*, and contributed to landmark albums including Kanye West’s *The College Dropout* (co-writing and performing on “Family Business”) and John Legend’s *Get Lifted* (co-writing and co-singing “Live It Up”). A six-time Showtime at the Apollo winner, she has lent her voice or writing to platinum- and gold-certified recordings alongside Kanye West, John Legend, Freeway, Slick Rick The Ruler, Talib Kweli, Pete Rock, The Last Poets, and more.

On stage, Tarrey has toured internationally as both lead and featured vocalist — fronting Hip-Hop icon Slick Rick The Ruler, serving as lead vocalist and performance partner to J. Ivy across symphony halls, universities, festivals, and major broadcast platforms, and touring with Talib Kweli on runs shared with The Roots and Common. Her performances span North America, Europe, South America (including Brazil), Africa, and the Caribbean. She has shared stages and festival bills with Stevie Wonder, Jill Scott, Patti LaBelle, Robert Glasper, Erykah Badu, Nas, Usher, Mos Def, India.Arie, Amel Larrieux, Anthony Hamilton, A Tribe Called Quest, will.i.am, and the late, great Gil Scott-Heron, and has opened for Marsha Ambrosius, Miguel, and El DeBarge.

As a songwriter and producer, Tarrey’s catalog spans soul, hip-hop, house, and spoken word, with collaborators including GRAMMY-winning trumpeter Maurice “Mobetta” Brown, Pete Rock, Talib Kweli, and gospel innovator Sir The Baptist. She is now developing new recording and production work with multi-GRAMMY winners Robert Glasper and Terrace Martin, deepening her move into genre-defining future soul, jazz, and hybrid Black music.

Tarrey’s reach extends across film, television, and live production. She served as Executive Producer on the comedy film *Self Served*, and as Co-Executive Producer of the Chicago Bulls’ Derrick Rose Jersey Retirement halftime production featuring J. Ivy and Keke Palmer. Her producing credits also include *Catching Dreams*, *Catching Feelings*, *The Poet Who Sat By The Door*, and *The Light Inside*, with new film and visual-storytelling projects in active development. She has performed and produced at premier venues including City Winery, the United Center, and the world-renowned Blue Note Jazz Clubs.

Within the industry, Tarrey has served in executive leadership with The Recording Academy's Midwest Chapter as Vice President and Co-Chair of the Songwriters & Composers Committee, where she created *Unblocked*, a global songwriter education and access series connecting creators worldwide. Her creative direction has also shaped national brand campaigns for Allstate, General Mills, Ford, Benjamin Moore, Nissan, Las Vegas Tourism, and Choose Chicago.

As a solo artist, her discography includes the soul album *The Sweetest Survivor* and house releases "Marching On," "Let It Go," and "Freedom Ride" (produced by GRAMMY-nominated house legend DJ Terry Hunter), alongside collaborations with leading Chicago house innovators. Her album *Catching Feelings* affirms her as both a traditional R&B and soul vocalist and a forward-thinking, genre-blending artist.

A political science and pre-law graduate of Mississippi Valley State University — the HBCU whose stages first heard her voice — Tarrey is deeply committed to youth empowerment, creative education, and community healing, working with young people through workshops, touring initiatives, and foundation partnerships to build confidence, artistic voice, and leadership. Through 2026 and beyond, she continues to produce shows, develop film and television, tour internationally, and grow as a creative executive and recording artist — rooted in soul tradition and driven by a vision of legacy and healing.

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