

Michael Eure Show Transcript

Special Guest Lydia Salett Dudley

Recorded 2/15/18

EURE: Hello this is Michael Eure, and I'd like to invite you to The Michael Eure Show featuring student hosts and very special guests talking about a variety of interesting topics. You can find us on the Eagle Stream YouTube Channel.

EURE: Good morning, and welcome to The Michael Eure Show. We are so happy to bring you Lydia Salett Dudley today, she is a prolific jazz- And gospel performer. Tell us a little bit about yourself, Lydia.

DUDLEY: Well, I'm originally from Cleveland, Ohio. And my mother's a church musician, playing classical.

EURE: Okay, mm-hm.

DUDLEY: So of course music was in the house, and kids can't help but pick up on that.

EURE: Okay, and I saw you do a workshop at Martin Street Baptist Church.

DUDLEY: Yes I did.

EURE: And I think your parents were there, and your brothers?

DUDLEY: I did, I actually, Martin Street did a couple of things. But one thing I did was a celebration of African-American music.

EURE: Okay.

DUDLEY: And so what we did, we took a journey, starting with the Negro spirituals, blues, jazz, walked through Motown and walked through Gospel.

EURE: Yeah, and I love what you did, you were a black representative of Wake Tech.

DUDLEY: Yes.

EURE: And you did freedom with your thing.

DUDLEY: Yes.

EURE: And you did the hook and then the students performed.

DUDLEY: Yes.

EURE: Tell us a little bit about that.

DUDLEY: Okay, so I wanted to do a interactive music event.

EURE: Okay.

DUDLEY: I wanted the students to be involved and I wanted to tap into their creativity.

EURE: Okay.

DUDLEY: So freedom was the subject. So I wanted to know what their definition of freedom was.

EURE: And you did some really good things, I mean the students got up, you got them up. They was like, mm-hm, you said c'mon up!

DUDLEY: Yeah, I kind of harassed them until I could get them but it is some creative kids around and adults. So pretty much once we get their interpretation of freedom, then I told them we're gonna focus on writing a hook to a song.

EURE: Right, okay.

DUDLEY: So hook is something that you're gonna remember, irregardless if you never hear the song again, the hook is catchy.

EURE: Okay.

DUDLEY: So what I wanted them to do was kind of write a hook about freedom.

EURE: Do you happen to remember any of those hooks? I know it was a lot for one day.

DUDLEY: Well, I started off with, freedom ain't no body gonna take away my freedom, so that was kinda how I started them off.

EURE: Right, and I remember you playing the keyboard.

DUDLEY: Yeah, I gave them a beat.

EURE: And you just took their lyrics and you just made it work.

DUDLEY: Yes.

EURE: So, I knew you had done some things in the community with the young people even with many years you worked in some projects. And you did a gospel and blues workshop with some, and you went from elementary to high school, all those students.

DUDLEY: Yes.

EURE: And you broke them up and had them write their own songs and perform. And I just think you're multi-talented. So tell me, where'd you get your musical training? I know your mother probably had you involved in church.

DUDLEY: She did, she trained me some in the beginning stages. And I will take piano lessons on and off.

EURE: Okay.

DUDLEY: And I always will sing in a church choir but then once I moved to North Carolina in '99, I started a journey of taking some piano lessons. And then I decided to take a jazz appreciation class at UNC, Chapel Hill.

EURE: All right.

DUDLEY: And once I took that class, I realized that I had never heard information before.

EURE: Okay.

DUDLEY: About different jazz musicians, singers. And just the impact that they had on the music and the different styles of music.

EURE: Okay, and you relay that very well and I remember you did a couple of, I don't remember exactly. They were some type of jazz. It wasn't a symposium, but you did it in north kind of Central.

DUDLEY: Yes, I did a jazz competition.

EURE: Competition.

DUDLEY: So what I would do is in the summer time, I would work in a partnership with Summer camps, Safety Club was one of them. I'd go in once a week for about six weeks. And I would do just a class, an interactive class on the history of the blues, jazz, and negro spirituals. Talk about the meaning, where did the blues come from? Talking about Mississippi Delta, What crops were popular back in slavery, and then why would they sing the blues. What type of subject matter would the blues consist of? And so I would sing the blues to them, and then I would have them interpret what they thought the song meant. What do the lyrics mean? And then we would

learn a lot of tunes. I probably taught them over a couple summers probably about 10 to 12 Jazz and Blues tunes. But the ultimate thing was to teach them the theory behind the Blues. And then we would talk about current events, like what is important to you right now. And then taking that theory, I would allow them to write their own Blues and then allow them to perform it, those children were very creative.

EURE: Okay, and you do all kinds of performances for the African American Caucus celebration. Two years ago you were a featured performer, but you also did a reception.

DUDLEY: Yes, I sure did.

EURE: Wonderful background music.

DUDLEY: Yes, yes, I loved it.

EURE: So, tell me did you do all kinds of venues?

DUDLEY: Yes, I really do. I regularly play for Duke's PhD Hooding Reception over the year, and several other graduate receptions that they have. I play for restaurants, and it's a unique experience, Mike's Italian Restaurant.

EURE: Which I never heard of, but enjoy.

DUDLEY: Vino Fino's.

EURE: It was awesome. The food was great.

DUDLEY: And I do a jam session for Shore University once a month, every other month, actually, at a Loft Hotel.

EURE: That with their radio station?

DUDLEY: It's with a radio station, yes.

EURE: Okay.

DUDLEY: And so we do a jam session where we'll start off a set for about an hour and then we'll welcome people to come and perform.

EURE: Wow.

DUDLEY: So I do enjoy performing but I really like interactive music. And I really enjoy when artists or people that would like to be musicians or artists to really put their own creativity in it and their own signature.

EURE: When you do this at Halo.

DUDLEY: Yes.

EURE: Is that open to the public?

DUDLEY: It is open to the public. It's free. They do it once a month, and I host every other month. So it's always the last Friday of the month.

EURE: At what time?

DUDLEY: From 6:30 to 9:30.

EURE: Okay, wonderful.

DUDLEY: Right across from NC State.

EURE: Okay, we've got all the schools involved.

DUDLEY: Yes.

EURE: So we're gonna have to get this musical people over there.

DUDLEY: That's it, yes.

EURE: So you are not currently planning a summer camp, but I'm just thinking about maybe, wait, that would be a good place to do that.

DUDLEY: I would love to just interactive things with children. They're like sponges and then they're spontaneous, and it's very organic. Whatever we do is pretty much on the spot where they're improvising and we like to have horn players and different instruments come in.

EURE: Mm-hm.

DUDLEY: And have that person explain what that instrument is and what it does.

EURE: Okay, now, one other thing I love about you, what your nonprofit, your 501(c)(3). Your undergraduate is in accounting.

DUDLEY: Yes, it is.

EURE: And I was always impressed that your books in order. Cuz a lot of musicians, and people that are creative they don't have a good sense of that business part.

DUDLEY: It's very tedious.

EURE: Yes.

DUDLEY: Yes, so knowing the business side of anything is very important.

EURE: Okay, now we're talking across disciplines now. What about music therapy? Have you worked with any body or any organization to do that?

DUDLEY: I have not, I would love to but I have volunteered and performed as several nursing homes. And just I've been in situations I had one unique experience where a senior group did a prom.

EURE: Okay.

DUDLEY: It was just like a high school program but it was for seniors. And I was their musical guest. And so, I kind of played some James Brown and different tunes but then I perform some jazz tunes and blues tunes. And they connect immediately because it takes them back to their era.

EURE: All right, and to the audience, if you have any questions or wanna make comments, feel free to chat.

Q&A: Well you know Megan said she's been to one of those shows, and really, really liked it.

DUDLEY: Okay.

Q&A: And she's also a big Gospel fan.

DUDLEY: Yeah.

Q&A: And, what gospel song do you like to sing? And could you sing us a couple of bars?

DUDLEY: Wow. Well, one of my favorites is Amazing Grace. So, I'll sing a little bit of that. Amazing grace. 🎵 Amazing grace. How sweet the sound. That saved a wretch like me. I once was lost, but now I'm found. Was blind but now I see. 🎵 And if she goes on my website, I do have a gospel meditation CD on the website, lydiasalettdudley.com.

EURE: Hallelujah. Yeah, do you have any other, like maybe a jazz tune that you'd like to do?

DUDLEY: A jazz tune. 🎵 Summertime. And the living is easy. Fish are jumping, and the cotton is high. Your daddy's rich and your ma is good looking. So hush little baby. Don't you cry. 🎵

EURE: Go ahead, Lydia Salett Dudley. Love it, love it, love it.

DUDLEY: Yes.

EURE: Any other audience questions?

Q&A: Not, right now.

EURE: Okay. Well, I got plenty.

DUDLEY: Okay, go right ahead.

EURE: So give us a little kind of update of what's coming up. Some of the performances you have.

DUDLEY: Some of the performances okay, I will be doing well, March the first, I'll be back at Vinos Finos.

EURE: Okay.

DUDLEY: Okay, March the eighth, there's a hotel in Greensboro called O' Henry's.

EURE: Okay.

DUDLEY: They do a jazz and cocktail series.

EURE: Mm.

DUDLEY: And it generally is on Thursdays, every Thursday and Saturday. So March the eight, which is a Thursday, I'll be there probably I think it's like 5:30 to 7:30. But I'll be with a wonderful trio, I won't be playing piano, I'll be singing. And it's right in the lobby, it's free. They have wonderful food; it's a wonderful hotel. Victoria, I think it's. She is the person that hosts those events.

EURE: Now, could you give your website?

DUDLEY: Sure.

EURE: Cuz people could find out by going there.

DUDLEY: They can find out about my events. I'm gonna spell it, it's lydiasalettdudley. L-Y-D-I-A-S-A-L as in Larry, E-T-T-D-U- D-L-E-Y.com. lydiasalettdudley.com.

EURE: So if anybody wanted you, and I remember you doing jazz. Brunch once, and they came and they brought the little waffles.

DUDLEY: Yes.

EURE: That was really good.

DUDLEY: Yeah, it was a waffle and chicken brunch, jazz brunch.

EURE: Okay, wonderful. And I just think that it's good when you get a performer that can also give some background on what they're doing. And you're open to the audience. Always come up-

DUDLEY: I love it, I love the audience, yes.

EURE: Okay. So we gotta work on you getting a summer camp.

DUDLEY: Okay.

EURE: Now, talk about the adults, that's another thing about you, you talk a lot about children, but I've seen you work with adults even in your bands.

DUDLEY: Yes, yes.

EURE: How do you go about selecting?

DUDLEY: As far, okay, so I went to North Carolina Central. They have a wonderful jazz program that's under Dr. Wiggins, Dr. Ira Wiggins.

EURE: Yeah, I know Dr. Wiggins.

DUDLEY: And so, going to Central, and also I met some students at UNC and professors, Dr. Steven Anderson, Dr. Catch. You come into a community of professors and musicians. And so, I had my first jazz competition in 2011. And I had wonderful support from Central professors and UNC.

EURE: Okay.

DUDLEY: They are like very involved in the community. So from that and the students, it's like I developed a network of friends.

EURE: Okay.

DUDLEY: So whenever I perform, a lot of times you may see me with different performers.

EURE: Okay.

DUDLEY: It is a network of professional musicians.

EURE: So you pull from your network.

DUDLEY: Yes, and I love it. It's a wonderful way to keep in touch, and to just spread the word about jazz.

EURE: And I hope our students will follow up, because you need to network no matter what the profession is.

DUDLEY: That's right.

EURE; And I like this event you have coming up with WSH training.

DUDLEY: Yes, yes.

EURE: And so things like that, students, please go take advantage of it, lead the people.

DUDLEY: Bring your instrument, if you play or if you sing.

EURE: Or if you just like good music.

DUDLEY: Yes.

EURE: Like me, I'm not singing or playing.

DUDLEY: Exactly, exactly.

EURE: It can be fun. Now, about workshops, like what you did with our students was great. Now, when you get students, young people that don't know how to play anything, do you work with them too, to teach them?

DUDLEY: I'm available to do any type of workshop. And then, like I say, I have the network to pull in. If I say, I would like to do a instrumental workshop, then I may bring in some keyboards, and let's just talk about the fundamental things. And let's do some basic things to see if I can pique your interest to go further.

EURE: All right, so everybody can do the basics.

DUDLEY: Everybody can do the basics, yes.

EURE: Now, do you do a lot of collaborations with organizations? I know you-

DUDLEY: Not as much as I would like.

EURE: Okay.

DUDLEY: And I've had my head in accounting books, doing accounting during the day. But I really enjoy collaboration. So I've worked, like you said, the Safety Club, that was a great collaboration. My home church is the Fountain of Raleigh with Pastor Anderson, Paul Anderson. So I like doing collaborations with them, so when they have functions or events.

EURE: And you did one with Saint Matthew, African Methodist.

DUDLEY: I sure did, yes.

EURE: And that was the brunch.

DUDLEY: Yes.

EURE: One of the brunches.

DUDLEY: Yes.

EURE: I've seen you do stuff all over the place with talents improves.

DUDLEY: Yes.

EURE: When you are doing your accounting by day.

DUDLEY: Yes.

EURE: Do you find yourself breaking out in song and getting frustrated?

DUDLEY: Well, actually I will tell you what I do. I keep a pad by a keyboard.

EURE: Okay.

DUDLEY: While I'm working, and a lot of time I can write lyrics. For some reason my lyrics are better when I'm writing them at work.

EURE: Okay.

DUDLEY: So I don't know if it's because I'm not supposed to be working on music.

EURE: Or you have the blues.

DUDLEY: Yeah, yeah, but I actually enjoy working with numbers and music is a lot of numbers. First too so it's pretty cool.

EURE: And I'm glad you brought that up, because a lot of people think of engineers, and computer scientists as being nerds. But for the most part I find them to really enjoy music.

DUDLEY: Music, definitely. There's kind of a correlation in it being able to study, it gives you a depth. So even if you don't play all fancy or sing all fancy, you just have an understanding, and you can kind of navigate what you wanna do.

EURE: And I heard you talking to one of our visitors that they was tip toeing into the singing?

DUDLEY: Yes.

EURE: Career she does I think jazz and gospel too.

DUDLEY: Gospel, she does, yes.

EURE: And she was thinking about not going forward-

DUDLEY: Yes.

EURE: And you were encouraging her-

DUDLEY: Yes, I was.

EURE: So what kind of advice would you have for someone that might want to-

DUDLEY: Yeah.

EURE: Perform?

DUDLEY: I just think the bottom line, you become an expertise when you networking.

EURE: Okay.

DUDLEY: And you come around people who are at different levels.

EURE: Okay.

DUDLEY: It can be at your level, it could be higher, and it could be lower.

EURE: Okay.

DUDLEY: But just that type of atmosphere is encouraging in and of itself, and it brings out the creativity in you. So if you want to develop anything, you've got to find a network of people that all have the same interests.

EURE: Okay, now when we think of jazz-

DUDLEY: Okay.

EURE: I think of jazz mixed with art. I love to go to art galleries that have jazz in the background. Have you done that sort of function?

DUDLEY: I haven't done a lot of that, but one particular wine bar that used to be in Carey, they had a lot of artwork and they did a lot of classes on painting. But we would come in on the off days and provide jazz. And it was just a great vibe in a place like that.

EURE: And we're not gonna, Veno seems to get me a discount.

DUDLEY: Yes.

EURE: But they have all kinds of art work hanging up about the South American countries.

DUDLEY: Yes, yes.

EURE: Because they are really a South American focus-

DUDLEY: Yes.

EURE: Restaurant I thought was quite interesting.

DUDLEY: Yes.

EURE: Because there was lot of conversations about the pictures.

DUDLEY: Yes.

EURE: Hanging up and where's that.

DUDLEY: Yeah, yeah. Okay, great place.

EURE: Yes.

DUDLEY: Great spot.

EURE: Now, tell us a little bit more about the make up of the people, and how you're set up because I'm back to this Aloft and I wanna get a good seat, okay?

DUDLEY: It sure is a wonderful place. So with Aloft, W.S.H.A. they set up all of our sound equipment for us, and basically I'd pull from my network of friends to come on out, and we need to hang out for about three hours. And so what we do is primarily jazz, you will have some people who come in and like to do some old R&B tunes and things like that. But we really really focus kinda on jazz and just that creative burst that you can do. For instance, students may come up and its child funding. It's all ages that can come. So we've had some young students that come with their saxophones or guitars and we may not know the song that they call but we'll give them a backdrop. We'll give them a beat. We'll give them a baseline. And we'll tell them to go for it and we'll just follow them. So it's just one of those just an open atmosphere. So we get all ages. We may have older musicians who are very seasoned come. We'll have some students from UNC or Central that will come. A great vocalists from Central will come and sing. It's great.

EURE: And I have gone to another genre because we talk about jazz. But I'm thinking of the student that did the hip hop again.

DUDLEY: Okay.

EURE: So, if a student was of hip hop-

DUDLEY: Okay.

EURE: Would they be able to work into that setting?

DUDLEY: They would, we may challenge them-

EURE: Okay.

DUDLEY: A little bit different.

EURE: Okay.

DUDLEY: We may just challenge them. Challenge them to make the music generally acceptable.

EURE: Okay.

DUDLEY: With a good message.

EURE: Yes.

DUDLEY: So yeah, so we encourage them to come out.

EURE: And I just brought up, cuz that's just what they sing. When I say they, a lot of young people are into hip hop. And it certainly is not all bad.

DUDLEY: And the thing about it.

EURE: Some is good.

DUDLEY: The one thing I found out about young people, even when I was working with the summer camp. And how the jazz tunes I taught them. They learned all the words. I mean they ate the music up. So kids like music period. So that's the wonderful thing about working with young people.

EURE: We're going to go to a video now, so you can get a good sense of how Lydia.

DUDLEY: Yes, this is an Oliver Twist video from a couple of years ago. And I just had a trio and some friends came out, it was at a restaurant, and we had a great time.

[MUSIC]

EURE: Okay.

DUDLEY: Mm-hm.

EURE; So Lydia, tell us a little bit about the Oliver Twist and.

DUDLEY: So Oliver Twist was, it's no longer there but it was a restaurant in North Rowley, I think on road. And they would have a jazz night. I think it may have been on Thursdays and just a trio or a duo could go in and just play music for about two or three hours. So we get a lot of opportunities like that to play better music.

EURE: Okay.

DUDLEY: And that's a wonderful avenue to meet new people also.

EURE: Well, I'm gonna definitely talk with a few people and see about having you do an outside concert-

DUDLEY: I would love that.

EURE: At Wake Tech. I'm thinking about behind. This is building B for those of you who do not know. Wonderful waterfront and nice area.

DUDLEY: Yeah.

EURE: And I've never seen them do anything like that out there.

DUDLEY: Sounds great.

EURE: And I think it would be really good.

DUDLEY: Yes.

EURE: And you can interact with the students, and they can eat their lunch.

DUDLEY: Yes.

EURE: It'll be nice.

DUDLEY: Yes.

EURE: So anybody listening? Let us know what we gotta do.

DUDLEY: I would love to.

EURE: So have you done any outdoor concerts?

DUDLEY: I did one in Cary last summer, in August. And I have two coming up. One on July the 1st, a summer series, Sunday in the park, in Greenville, North Carolina, so And the other one I have lined up right now is August the 8th and that will also be in Cary's. Park After Dark, I believe it's called. It's a music series. That's on a Wednesday, August 8th is a Wednesday.

EURE: Okay.

DUDLEY: So I'm getting more into the outdoors performing. That's a little more challenging than singing indoors, cuz you got to deal with the elements.

EURE: Yeah, and you never know.

DUDLEY: The dry heat, the humidity, you never know what's gonna happen.

EURE: And I happen to have a couple students from the Greenville area, so hopefully they'll come out. I'll make sure they know.

DUDLEY: Yes.

EURE: And online students, you're everywhere.

DUDLEY: Yes, yes.

EURE: So I love what Eagle Stream is doing. We're trying to provide you the experience without you actually being at the facility.

DUDLEY: Okay.

EURE: So that's a really big thing for me because I work with a lot of online students. They're willing to participate but they can't always get here.

DUDLEY: Right.

EURE: Yes. Anything else you'd wanna talk about before we close it up?

DUDLEY: If anyone is interested in finding out about my performances, they can go to my website. Or they can text me at 919-247-4630.

EURE: Okay, and anything else? I like the website.

DUDLEY: You like the website?

EURE: I love it. It's very nice, and you keep that updated so they can always go to that.

DUDLEY: Yes, I keep their performances updated, yes.

EURE: Okay. Now this event coming up. It's March the 1st and March the 8th?

DUDLEY: March 1st, I'll be at Vinos Finos, once again, for dinner.

EURE: I will be in Philadelphia-

DUDLEY: Okay.

EURE: On a conference.

DUDLEY: Okay.

EURE: But not that I would be there, but I will probably go. Is in Greensboro?

DUDLEY: Greensboro on the 8th is a really nice-

EURE: O Henry's?

DUDLEY: Yes, O Henry's.

EURE: Okay, I've heard of it, but I've never been there, though.

DUDLEY: Beautiful hotel.

EURE: Okay, wonderful. Well, I really have enjoyed you today. And I know that we're kind of ending right before 11:30, but I know someone else is coming in here. And I really have enjoyed you and hopefully have you back.

DUDLEY: Yes.

EURE: And try to convince people in student activities to bring you back. Because they really were pleased with the student.

DUDLEY: Okay, that's great.

EURE: And you did that on the Northern Wake Campus, maybe you should do it on Southern Wake as well.

DUDLEY: Okay.

EURE: So until next time, folks. I'll see you, and I've enjoyed you. Thank you.

DUDLEY: Thank you.

EURE: Thank you, Lydia.

DUDLEY: Thank you.