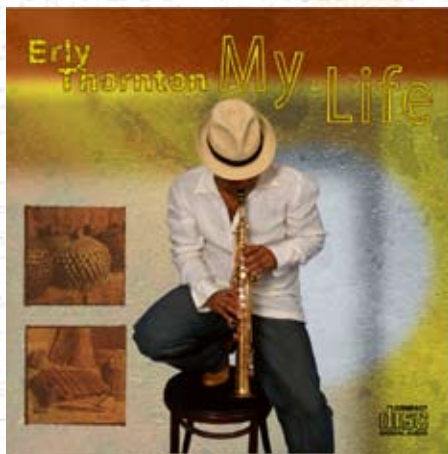


# Erly Thornton

“ I listen to a lot of new music on a weekly basis. While most of it is quite good, every once in awhile something comes along that blows me away... something that is several notches above the rest. Trust me on this one, **MY LIFE** from Erly Thornton is just such a project.” Scott O'Brien, Smooth Jazz.com—May 2008



**ARTIST:** Erly Thornton,  
Saxophonist/Songwriter

**RELEASE:** “My Life”

**LABEL:** Groove Elation Records,  
LLC. #199

3564 Avalon Park Blvd East, Suite 1  
Orlando, Florida 32828

**CATEGORY:** Jazz/Smooth Jazz/R&B

**RELEASE DATE:** February 23, 2008

## MY LIFE

Erly Thornton's new release, “My Life”, reminds us of the good things in life; the times when we focus on ourselves and those important to us; a time when we forget about our problems and get lost in the music that touches our soul. Drawing from his musical experiences, he created tracks using strong bass and drums like the R&B of his youth, adding funky jazz licks over the top. Erly wanted his project to encompass these styles he had come to love and in collaboration with producer, Veit Renn, included Latin & R&B flavored tracks such as “Mura De Cozumel”, “Free”, “Embarkation” and more. This collection of old school beats, fresh licks and melodies, became “My Life” detailing the emotional experiences that we ALL have on a daily basis.

Erly Thornton has provided you with a rare gift. The opportunity to refocus on life and the best it has to offer with just a push of a button.

—Enjoy

“ Erly Thornton's **MY LIFE** serves up a nice blend of Smooth Jazz mixed with a twist of R&B and sprinkled with infectious Latin rhythms. With the release of his first CD you are taken a musical journey that whets your appetite right from the start.”

Yvonne Coleman  
Smooth Jazz 103.1 WLOQ—March 2008

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## WEBSITES:

www.ErlyThornton.com  
Facebook: ErlyThornton Fan Page

## DISTRIBUTION:

iTunes, Amazon Mp3, CDBaby, Napster, Rhapsody, Groupie Tunes, eMusic, Lala, CD Freedom, Nimbit, Tradebit, Improdicon, Buy Music, Pay Play, Great Indie Music, Audio Lunchbox, Music Is Here, Pocketgroup and selected retail outlets.

# Erly Thornton

## ON STAGE /RECENT LIVE PERFORMANCES

Erly is a seasoned performer having shared the stage with R&B artists Phil Perry, Glenn Jones and Howard Hewitt as a sideman during their performances in Nashville in the 90's. In Orlando, he became the lead voice of B.One, an all original Jazz band that quickly became one of the hottest groups in Central Florida. B.One recorded two CDs, won a spot in the opening line up for WSJT's Smooth Jazz Fest and opened for Spyro Gyra at the House of Blues in Orlando. Erly Thornton kicked off his solo career opening for The Rippingtons in Orlando in July 2007 and received a standing ovation! This should be no surprise to those who have been grooving to Erly's music since the beginning of his career. Erly performed with original Jazz groups like Jerry Wilborn and Limited Access in Knoxville, and in Nashville with AyreTyte, a contemporary Jazz cover band.

## AS A SOLO ARTIST:

Opening for Brian Culbertson, House of Blues Orlando Florida  
Opening for Bobby Caldwell, Winter Park, Florida  
Opening for Stephanie Mills, Washington, DC  
Opening for Miki Howard, Orlando Florida  
National Anthem, Orlando Magic / Miami Heat Game  
WEIB Jazz Concert Series, Springfield, Massachusetts  
WGRV Concert Series, Melbourne, Florida  
WLOQ Winter Park Florida Autumn and Spring Arts Festivals (yearly)  
WLOQ Jazz Jams, Uptown Altamonte Springs, Florida (yearly)  
BB Kings, Nashville, Tennessee  
Essence Room, Nashville, Tennessee  
Prince's Bar and Grill, Dallas Texas  
Southside on Lamar, Dallas Texas  
African American Arts Festival, Oakland, Florida  
Leu Gardens Fall Jazz Stroll, Orlando, Florida  
Indaba Music Festival at Polasek Museum, Winter Park, Florida  
National Circle of Friends at Universal Studios, Orlando Florida  
Juneteenth Music Festival, Orlando, Florida  
Bacchus Festival, Titusville, Florida  
City of Casselberry Jazz on the Green Concert  
Frontline Productions 1st Fridays  
Club Taboo with Justin Guarini of American Idol Fame  
Circle of Friends Jazz Night Events at Universal Studios  
Press 101 Café  
Millennia Art Gallery for National Urban League  
UCF Athletics Various receptions and Events  
NAACP State Awards Dinner at Disney Coronada Springs  
City of Orlando Mayor Buddy Dyer's Volunteer Services Awards

## WITH B.ONE:

WSJT Smooth Jazz Fest  
WLOQ Sunday Jazz Jam Concert Series  
WSJZ 2nd Annual Que Fest  
WLOQ Winter Park Autumn Arts Festival  
WLOQ 11th Anniversary Concert  
featuring Mindi Abair and Spyro Gyra  
WSJT Get Downtown Friday Night Series  
Kissimmee Jazz Festival  
Windermere Jazz Festival  
Universal Studios Portofino Bay Hotel,  
Harbor Nights Series  
Orlando Urban League Annual Gala  
opening for Melba Moore  
The City of Casselberry Jazz at Sunset  
Taste of Daytona  
San Sebastian Winery  
Lake Ridge Winery

## WITH THE ROBERT HARRIS GROUP:

New Smyrna Beach Jazz Festival  
WLOQ Sunday Jazz Jams  
Naples Jazz By The Sea  
Lakeridge Winery  
Portofino Bay Hotel— Harbor Nights  
Uptown Altamonte Concert Series

# Erlly Thornton

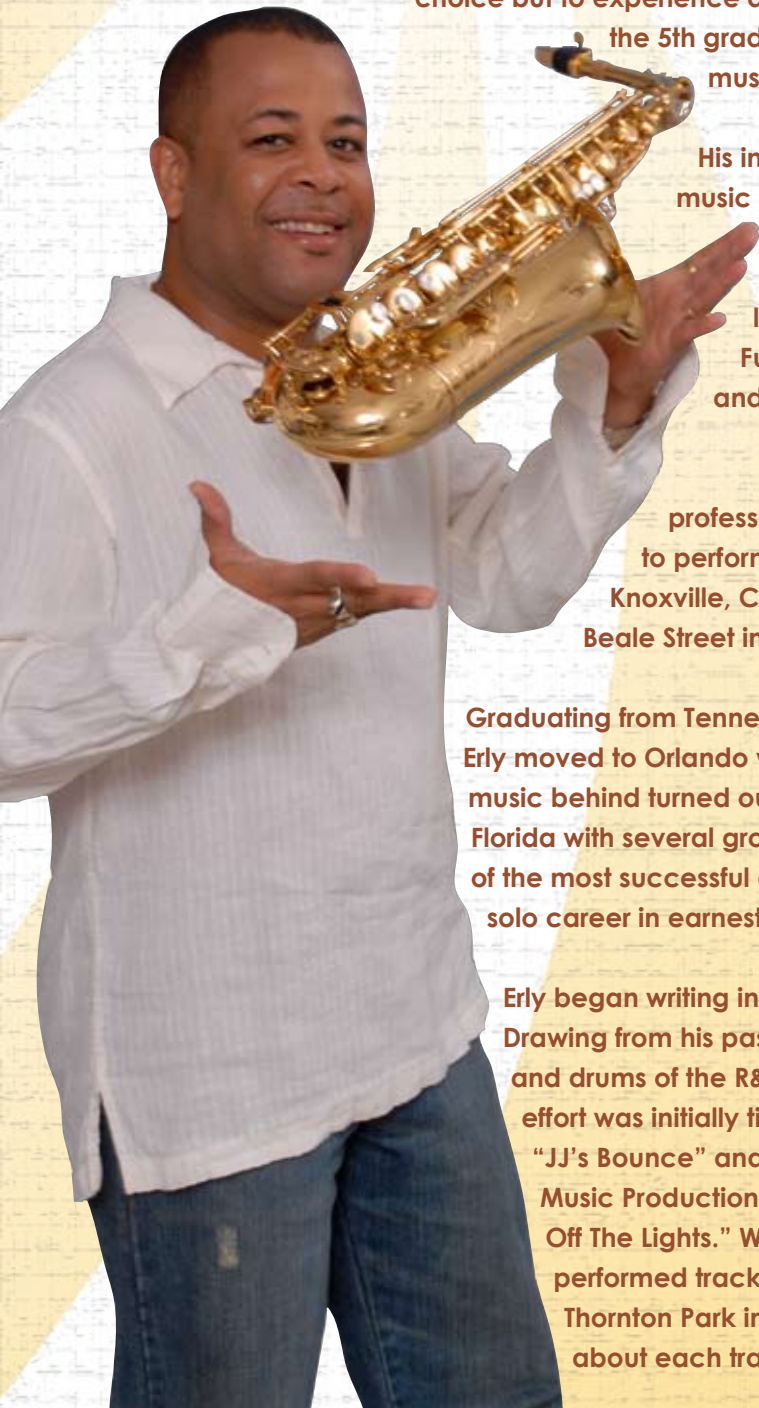
**FROM THE BEGINNING...** Playing the saxophone has always been emotionally intense for Erlly Thornton. Each performance is a connection that this artist and his audience mutually enjoy! Born in Nashville into a family that had artistic talent on both sides, mother being a painter and father being a trumpet player, he had no choice but to experience a double dose of creativity from birth. Starting on the sax in the 5th grade, Erlly was asked to play in front of "the boys", his father's musician friends, every weekend to the music of Ray Charles.

His improvisational style started there. Erlly began studying the music in his room to learn every lick he could from jazz artists such as Herb Alpert, Grover Washington Jr., David Sanborn, Najee, George Howard, Brecker Brother Band, and others, learning their works by memory. But he also felt the R&B and Funk of groups like Cameo, EWF, Zapp, Stevie Wonder, Prince, and The Time contributing to his multi-faceted style.

During the late 80's Erlly started college and began playing professionally for the first time in the Nashville area. In addition to performing Nashville, Erlly performed in the surrounding areas of Knoxville, Chattanooga and even spent some time on World Famous Beale Street in Memphis.

Graduating from Tennessee State University in Electrical Engineering, in the 90's Erlly moved to Orlando where he began working in this field. However, leaving music behind turned out to be impossible. Very soon Erlly was performing in Central Florida with several groups as well as a solo act. The unexpected breakup of one of the most successful of his Jazz groups thus far, B.One, prompted him to pursue a solo career in earnest.

Erlly began writing in 2004, composing many of the songs on his first solo release. Drawing from his past he initially decided to create music using the strong bass and drums of the R&B of his youth, creating funky Jazz licks over the top. The effort was initially titled "The Old School Beat" with the songs "Call It A Day", "JJ's Bounce" and "Grooveelation". In collaboration with Veit Renn of Renn Music Productions they created songs such as "Free", "E-Class" and "Turn Off The Lights." With the project finally completed to his satisfaction, Erlly performed tracks from "My Life" at his CD Release Party at The Beacon of Thornton Park in Orlando in March of 2008. Below, he shares his insights about each track with you.



# Erly Thornton

## MY LIFE INSIGHTS

○ **“FREE”**—we all have dreams; we all have a purpose in life that most of us sometimes find hard to focus on. This is a conversation about taking the plunge and taking the chance to be free from the daily grind of your unsatisfying job or life to Follow Your Dreams. With vocals based on a conversation with your significant other, assuring them that it is the right time, “Don’t You Feel It, Don’t you know it!” and counseling: “Don’t Be Afraid, Don’t Hesitate!” it is an optimistic emotional expression of a new beginning.

○ **“MURA DE COZUMEL”**—imagine a bright golden sun shining on Mayan waters such a unique shade of blue that there are no colors in our language to describe it. You plunge into the sea’s cool, refreshing embrace followed by schools of bright yellow fish while floating effortlessly over coral reefs of indescribable beauty. This is freedom. This is the song about that experience, on the Mura or underwater “Wall” of Cozumel.

○ **“JJ’S BOUNCE”**—it’s almost dinner time. As I slice the vegetables I hear my kid’s favorite show on the TV. I turn and there they are, smiling at me with grins so big, hands on the top of the couch bouncing up and down on the cushions in time to the music. Have you ever seen kids do that? I think it’s a universal language of “I don’t have a care in the world, I’m having fun and the center of attention is my daddy, mommy, and my life set to music.” This is your song Joseph and Janelle. This song is dedicated to them and all of the parents and kids in the World. This is JJ’s Bounce.

○ **“TURN OFF THE LIGHTS”** - remember the dorm room mix tape? You had one to study with, one to party with, and one to... ahem...set the mood. Kicked the roommate out hours ago. We have been studying each other for a while now. No more books or pretenses. All we have is nervous anticipation, beating hearts, first love exploration. Is this the one? We don’t know but we both feel it. Put in the cassette. Hit play. No more talking, just “Turn Off the Lights”.

○ **“FANTASY”**—the timeless music of Earth Wind and Fire has been loved by people of all ages, backgrounds, and cultures. It is not just the pure genius of the compositions themselves, but also the spirituality and optimism expressed in their lyrics. Fantasy is one of those grooving inspirational songs that fit very well into the theme of this project and our lives. “Every Man has a place, in his heart there’s a space, and the world can’t erase his fantasies, Take a ride in the sky, on a trip Fantasize, all your dreams will come true right away!” Who isn’t inspired by that?

○ **“WITH YOU BY MY SIDE”** —no one can do it alone. We all try, but the wisest of us find out that the way is much better if we have help from our friends and significant others. Together we can accomplish anything “With You By My side”.

# Erly Thornton

## MY LIFE INSIGHTS (continued)

○ **“GROOVEELATIOUS”** — (Groove-Ee-Lay-Shus) remember when songs were so funky that you had no choice but to dance? It's an involuntary movement of your head. Before you know it your thoughts have turned to happier times and now you are moving more than your head. You raise your hands in the air as you really haven't heard a song like this in a while, since college or high school even! Man this song is groovy!

○ **“WISHING ON A STAR”** —relationships can be difficult and sometimes can go through hard times. How do you feel when you know it may be at the end, but you really wish it wasn't? The hurt and the pain of wanting to make it work and needing your other half to try as hard as you... This is a song that came out when I was in Junior High school, a heartfelt plea from a woman wanting to make one last try. “She's Wishing on a Star”.

○ **“E-CLASS”** —many songs have been written about the experience of driving. Usually it is about the particular road but occasionally it is about the vehicle. If the driving experience is incredible enough, it doesn't matter what road you are on, you take your experience with you everywhere. Driving my wife's E-Class Mercedes inspired this song.

○ **“LOST WITHOUT U”** —don't you just love a song that inspires all the ladies in the crowds to sing along? A song so powerful that they have memorized the lyrics and nuances of the vocals verbatim? Originally written and performed by Robin Thicke, “Lost Without U” is definitely one.

○ **“EMBARKATION”** —the title of this song is defined as “To board a vessel or aircraft as in the start of a journey; to set out on an adventure; to commence”. I like the sound of that, don't you? The hardest thing about a journey is making the decision to take it in the first place. Whatever your journey will turn out to be, I hope this song helps you to get the hard part out of the way -making the decision to embark.

○ **“CALL IT A DAY”** —imagine this: The last file is put away, the last brick laid, no more phone calls, and I Am out Of Here! It is time to go, but I don't feel like going home just yet! I've been working hard, I should be tired, but all of a sudden I'm full of energy because I know it is time to ENJOY the fruits of my labors! As I crank up the radio and listen to this driving beat, I know it's time to “Call it A Day”.

