



The show stayed on tour for two years and was televised as a music special. With a long-running musical hit under her belt and a taste for performing in her heart, new aspirations appeared as the New York music scene called to her.

"I was afraid to move from my family and go to a place I knew nothing about. But the hand of God stepped in and made the decision. Six months after I started thinking about moving to America, an Israeli producer I knew called and had a gig for me in New York. I couldn't believe it. He said he would get me accommodations at a Hilton Hotel, where I could stay and the company would pay for it. He asked if I was interested. I could barely speak. Though I had dreams of going to New York, I knew I couldn't afford to make such a move. Then, an invitation with expenses paid. God was speaking to me and telling me not to be afraid. From the moment I arrived in Manhattan, my dream came true. Every Starbucks, restaurant, every place I looked was heart and soul and music. I loved the energy; jazz and blues clubs, dance clubs. I lived in the Village and this was exactly what I was looking for...an environment filled with music and artists every place I went. It was the beginning of a new life for me."



Liyah lived and performed in New York for four years. As her popularity grew within the music genre, she began to feel a move out West might advance her career to the next level. Already at such a young age, she had accomplished so much; become a celebrity in her homeland not only as a singer, but she had a top-rated radio talk show, concert appearances and sell-out Tribute To Aretha Franklin tour were all successes. Plus, her videos had attracted a world wide audience. As Liyah's voice became more well-known invitations poured in from notables in the music industry wanting her contribute to their projects. Next up. Hollywood and the music scene in L.A.

**ST: What prompted your move to Los Angeles?**

**LL:** I was invited by someone who wanted me to record, and they flew me out. I stayed in Santa Monica and while in L.A.,

I worked with the very talented Tal Bergman, Gerry Brown (Stevie Wonder's ex drummer), AVLI Productions and more. I love New York, but nothing beats the warm weather here. While in Santa Monica I took walks every day to the beach. The atmosphere reminded me of Tel Aviv which I think is a combination of New York and L.A. I loved everything about Los Angeles, but there was one big problem...I didn't know how to drive. So, I took driving lessons, bought a car, and got my Green Card. It was a lot to get done, but I was determined to live and make my music here, in Los Angeles.

**ST: What do you love about living in America?**

**LL:** What is amazing about America is people are so generous. Look at all the charities that help people around the world. People in Los Angeles give so much to so many causes. I have always thought that giving is the way we get connected to God. By giving we connect with others. In one sentence: love other people as you love yourself. It is about awareness towards others; love people for who they are. America provides opportunity for everyone. You have a chance to make your dreams come true. I came to America with only \$6,000. I had two weeks paid in a hotel for the show I did, and then it was up to me. It was scary, but you know what...I wanted to enjoy life and experience everything. So, I enjoyed every minute of where I was at that moment.

**ST: With all the unrest in the world, as you travel what stands out in your mind?**

**LL:** I see people who are tired of living in poverty; people who have been under the hand of leaders who don't have their best interests in mind. Leaders who get rich, while people starve and live in poverty. Now we see people standing up for their freedom and a better life. My grandfather survived the Holocaust, but lost those he loved and all his possessions. He came to America alone, without anything but hope for a better life. And, that life was about building something good. When people come from a positive energy of wanting to build something for the good of all, they feel good about themselves and their lives. We don't see this today. Instead, greed is destroying hearts and hopes. Where is the light? What has happened to our divine purpose? It's something to think about and make changes toward finding in the future. We must see beyond money, and start seeing people as people.

Liyah is a newlywed, married five months to husband Mark Beychok, Managing Member/Chief Executive Officer of MBA Holdings, a firm founded to provide advisory services to companies. Liyah lived in Los Angeles for three years before

she met Mark, and it proved to be a match made in heaven; the couple were introduced by a Rabbi they knew from Israel and hit it off from day one. Mark and Liyah dated for almost a year before flying back to Israel to get married, so both families could attend. Liyah carries the smile of a newlywed in love, as she recalls the time she and Mark met.

"When we first started dating I didn't want Mark to see me perform; I wanted him to fall in love with the woman, not the excitement and glamour of the singer he saw on stage. I wanted him to love me for who I am, one-on-one. Finally after about four months Mark came to see me perform. He was surprised...I think shocked. After seeing me, he was immediately my biggest fan and encourages me every day to stay focused and continue performing and writing. Mark helps me in every way you can imagine. I tease him about being more into my career than I am—which would be difficult to do. Music is what makes me happy and so I write and co-write and perform and I try to put my own signature style on my songs. I feel that right now I have everything; the man I love by my side and a music career that makes me happy and fulfills my passion in life." ●



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