

= Personal (album) =

Personal is the debut studio album by the American vocal group Men of Vizion . It was released on June 18 , 1996 via Michael Jackson 's record label , MJJ Music , after a demo tape was played to him by producer Teddy Riley . The album has been described as a " sumptuous blend " of vocal R & B and " 90s production techniques " , that alternates between smooth ballads and new jack swing .

Personal received mixed reviews from music critics , with some critics noting similarities between the group and Boyz II Men . Some critics felt as if the material was unmemorable versions of Boyz II Men songs , while others felt that Personal was highly different from the music at the time . The album only managed to chart in the United States , where it peaked at 14 on the Billboard Heatseekers Albums , 29 on the Billboard R & B Albums and 186 on the Billboard Top 200 . Two singles were released to promote the album : " House Keeper " and " Do Thangz " . The former was a commercial success , peaking at number 13 on the U.S. Billboard Hot R & B / Hip @-@ Hop Singles & Tracks and at 67 on the U.S. Billboard Hot 100 .

= = Development and composition = =

Composed of George Spencer III , Corley Randolph , Desmond T. Greggs , Brian L. Dermus and lead singer Prathan " Spanky " Williams , Men of Vizion were formed in the early 1990s in Brooklyn , New York . Their vocal R & B harmonies impressed American entertainer Michael Jackson , who signed the group to his record label , MJJ Music , after a demo tape was played to him by producer Teddy Riley in 1993 . Greggs told Billboard magazine that the band is " here to prove that intimate songwriting in R & B is coming back " . He concluded by stating that the band was writing songs " that everyone will understand " .

Personal is a " sumptuous blend " of vocal R & B and " 90s production techniques " , that alternates between smooth ballads and new jack swing . The album incorporates all of the band 's beliefs and emotions , from love , romance and sensitivity . " House Keeper " is a story of reversal of the traditional roles that men and women play in relationships . The rest of the album " rolls along similarly " , with the songs " Forgive Me " , " Joyride " and " Do Thangz " , a mid @-@ tempo song on which the group pay homage to the females in their lives . A cover of The Jackson 5 's 1977 hit single " Show You the Way to Go " is included on the album . The cover was originally recorded and released on the soundtrack of the 1995 film Money Train .

= = Release and promotion = =

Originally set for release on May 14 , 1996 , Personal was released by MJJ Music , 550 Music and Epic Records on June 18 . The album debuted at 186 on the Billboard Top 200 for the chart issued on July 6 . It exited the chart the following week , to re @-@ enter at the same position for the chart issued on July 20 . The album spent a total of four weeks in the chart , before its exit on the week of August 10 . Personal debuted at its peak position of 29 on the U.S. Billboard R & B Albums on the chart issued on July 6 . Spending a total of ten weeks on the R & B Albums chart , the album received its final position of 87 on the chart issued on September 7 . Personal debuted at 14 on U.S. Billboard Heatseekers Album chart on the chart issued on July 6 . It dropped to 16 in the following week , before moving back to the 14th position on July 20 , where it stayed for a second week . The album exited the Heatseekers Album chart on the week of September 7 , spending a total of nine weeks on it .

" House Keeper " was released as the lead single from the album on April 9 , 1996 . To promote the single , tying in with the song 's lyric play on reversed gender roles , the group performed track dates at " ladies only " functions . The trek was sponsored by major @-@ market radio stations . The song peaked at number 13 on the U.S. Billboard Hot R & B / Hip @-@ Hop Singles & Tracks and at 67 on the U.S. Billboard Hot 100 . An accompanying music video for " House Keeper " was directed by Jesse Vaughan . " Do Thangz " was released as the second , and final , single from the album on October 8 , 1996 . It peaked at number 53 on the U.S. Billboard Hot R & B / Hip @-@ Hop Singles &

Tracks . An accompanying music video for the song was directed by Lionel C. Martin .

= = Critical response = =

Darryl Scipio of Vibe stated unlike " today 's masculine R & B " that is " laden with jokers who sing of little but freekin ' girls ? and then of keeping it on the down @-@ low " , Personal doesn 't use " wordy descriptions of sex to get you in the mood to dance " . Scipio stated that all 12 songs on the album feature " tight , bouncy production " and that all the members of the group sing confidently ; " there are no weak vocals here " . He cited " House Keeper " and " Personal " as having the most soul , " but the rest stand solidly " . He concluded his review of the album by stating that : " These visionaries are definitely a sound for sore ears " . Stephen Thomas Erlewine of AllMusic compared the group and the musical style of Personal to that of Boyz II Men . Erlewine stated that where Boyz II Men have first @-@ rate professional songwriters and producers , Men of Vizion merely have " competent hacks " , which means that " no matter how hard the group tries , they can 't make any of these songs memorable " . Jai Henry of The Daily Cougar commented that although at times they sound " a little too much " like Blackstreet , Men of Vizion " definitely have their own sound " .

Jean A. Williams of the Chicago Sun @-@ Times remarked that while the group demonstrates " good , strong and genuine vocal ability " on the album , what they need is " something to set them apart from the proliferation of male harmony groups of the R & B / soul persuasion " . Williams complimented the group 's cover of " Show You the Way to Go " as a " nice effort " but called " House Keeper " derivative . Ray Marciano of the Dayton Daily News wrote that the album 's ballads - especially " That 's Alright " and " When You Need Someone " - have " terrific melodies and wonderful hooks that will easily keep listeners ' attention " . Marciano was , however , critical of the group 's indistinct harmonies and said their vocals need to be " a bit sharper " . Jerome Cannon of the Chattanooga Times Free Press complimented Men of Vizion 's harmonies on " It 's Alright " and said that what caught his attention about the album was that the group were " not caught up in what every other new male group is trying to do , and that is to imitate Boyz II Men " .

= = Track listing = =

" That 's Alright " (Prathan Williams) ? 5 : 35
" Instant Love " (Teddy Riley , Prathan Williams , Chauncey Hannibal , Rodney Jerkins) ? 5 : 41
" House Keeper " (Teddy Riley , Sherri Blair , George Spencer III) ? 4 : 33
" When You Need Someone " (Prathan Williams) ? 6 : 47
" Forgive Me " (Prathan Williams) ? 5 : 44
" Personal " (Bob Kirschner , Y. Babatunde , Prathan Williams , Sydney Joseph , Jr .) ? 6 : 33
" Joyride " featuring Tasha Scott (Alexander Richbourg) ? 4 : 30
" You Told Me You Loved Me " (Prathan Williams , Bob Kirschner , Y. Babatunde) ? 5 : 47
" Do Thangz " (Teddy Riley , Sherri Blair , Chris Smith , Menton Smith) ? 5 : 02
" Show You the Way to Go " (Kenny Gamble , Leon Huff) ? 5 : 28
" It 's Only Just a Dream " (Teddy Riley , Sherri Blair , Prathan Williams , George Spencer III , Corley Randolph) ? 4 : 44
" Night and Day " (Teddy Riley , Corley Randolph , Desmond Greggs , Leon Sylvers IV) ? 4 : 34

= = Charts = =

= = Credits and personnel = =

Credits for Personal adapted from AllMusic .