

= Kelly Rowland =

Kelendria Trene " Kelly " Rowland (born February 11 , 1981) is an American singer , songwriter , actress , and television personality . Rowland rose to fame in the late 1990s as a member of Destiny 's Child , one of the world 's best @-@ selling girl groups of all time . During their hiatus , Rowland released her debut solo album Simply Deep (2002) , which sold 2 @.@ 5 million copies worldwide and produced the number @-@ one single " Dilemma " with Nelly , as well as the international top @-@ ten hit " Stole " . Rowland also transitioned into acting , with guest appearances in television sitcoms , and starring roles in Freddy vs. Jason (2003) and The Seat Filler (2005) .

Following the disbandment of Destiny 's Child in 2005 , she released her second album Ms. Kelly (2007) , which included international hits " Like This " and " Work " . In 2009 , Rowland served as a host on the first season of The Fashion Show , and was featured on David Guetta 's number @-@ one dance hit " When Love Takes Over " . The song 's global success influenced Rowland to explore dance music on her third album Here I Am (2011) , which spawned the international top @-@ ten hit " Commander " and US R & B / Hip @-@ Hop number @-@ one " Motivation " . In 2011 , she returned to television as a judge on the eighth season of The X Factor UK , and in 2013 , became a judge on the third and final season of The X Factor USA . Rowland 's fourth album Talk a Good Game (2013) , which saw a return to her " R & B roots " , was released to positive reviews .

Throughout a career spanning 19 years , Rowland has sold over 27 million records as a solo artist and 60 million records with Destiny 's Child . Her work has earned her several awards and nominations , including four Grammy Awards , two Billboard Music Awards and two Soul Train Music Awards . Rowland has also received a star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame with Destiny 's Child , and as a solo artist she has been honored by the American Society of Composers , Authors and Publishers and Essence for her contributions to music . In 2014 , Fuse ranked Rowland in their " 100 Most Award @-@ Winning Artists " list at number 20 .

She currently hosts BET 's Chasing Destiny with Frank Gatson Jr . They formed a girl group , June 's Diary .

= = Early life = =

Kelendria Trene Rowland was born on February 11 , 1981 , in Atlanta , Georgia . She is the daughter of Doris Rowland (née Garrison ; December 6 , 1947 ? December 2 , 2014) and Christopher Lovett Rowland . Kelly has an older brother named Orlando . When she was seven , her mother took her and left her father , who was an abusive alcoholic . At the age of eight , she relocated to Houston . Rowland was placed into a girl group , along with Beyoncé and friend LaTavia Roberson . Originally named Girl 's Tyme in 1992 , they were eventually cut down to six members . West coast R & B producer , Arne Frager , flew to Houston to see them and eventually brought them to his studio , The Plant Recording Studio , in Northern California . As part of efforts to sign Girl 's Tyme to a major label record deal , Frager 's strategy was to debut them in Star Search , the biggest talent show on national TV at that time . They participated , but lost the competition .

To manage the group , Mathew Knowles , Beyoncé 's father , resigned in 1995 from his job as a medical @-@ equipment salesman . He dedicated his time and established a " boot camp " for their training . At this time Rowland moved in with the Knowles 's . Not long after the inclusion of Rowland , Mathew cut the original lineup to four with LeToya Luckett joining in 1993 . Rehearsing in Tina Knowles ' hairstyling salon and their backyards , the group continued performing as an opening act for other established R & B girl groups of the time . They auditioned before record labels and were finally signed to Elektra Records , only to be dropped months later , before they could release an album .

= = Career = =

= = = 1997 ? 2001 : Destiny 's Child = = =

Taken from a passage in the Biblical Book of Isaiah , the group changed their name to Destiny 's Child in 1993 . Together , they performed in local events and , after four years on the road , the group was signed to Columbia Records in late 1997 . That same year , Destiny 's Child recorded their major label debut song " Killing Time " , for the soundtrack to the 1997 film , Men in Black . The following year , the group released their self @-@ titled debut album , spawning hits such as " No , No , No " . The album established the group as a viable act in the music industry , amassing moderate sales and winning the group three Soul Train Lady of Soul Awards . The group rose to fame after releasing their multi @-@ platinum second album The Writing 's on the Wall in 1999 . The album featured some of the group 's most widely known songs such as " Bills , Bills , Bills " , " Jumpin ' Jumpin ' " and " Say My Name " , which became their most @-@ successful song at the time , and would remain as one of their signature songs . " Say My Name " won Best R & B Performance by a Duo or Group with Vocals and Best R & B Song at the 43rd Annual Grammy Awards . The Writing 's on the Wall sold more than 15 million copies worldwide , essentially becoming their breakthrough album .

Along with their commercial successes , the group became entangled in much @-@ publicized turmoil involving the filing of a lawsuit by Lockett and Roberson for breach of contract . The issue was heightened after Michelle Williams and Farrah Franklin appeared in the video of " Say My Name " , implying that Lockett and Roberson had already been replaced . Eventually , Lockett and Roberson left the group . Franklin would eventually fade from the group after five months , as evidenced by her absences during promotional appearances and concerts . She attributed her departure to negative vibes in the group resulting from the departure . After settling on their final lineup , the trio recorded " Independent Women Part I " , which appeared on the soundtrack to the 2000 film , Charlie 's Angels . It became their best @-@ charting single , topping the Billboard Hot 100 for eleven consecutive weeks . The success cemented the new lineup and skyrocketed them to fame . Later that year , Lockett and Roberson withdrew their case against their now @-@ former band mates , while maintaining the suit against Mathew , which ended in both sides agreeing to stop public disparaging .

Later that year , while Destiny 's Child was completing their third album Survivor , Rowland appeared on the remix of Avant 's single " Separated " . Survivor , which channeled the turmoil the band underwent , spawned its lead single of the same name , which was a response to the experience . The song went on to win a Grammy Award for Best R & B Performance by a Duo or Group with Vocals . The themes of " Survivor " , however , caused Lockett and Roberson to refile their lawsuit ; the proceedings were eventually settled in June 2002 . Meanwhile , the album was released in May 2001 , debuting at number one on the US Billboard 200 with first @-@ week sales of 663 @, @ 000 copies sold . To date , Survivor has sold over twelve million copies worldwide , over forty percent of which were sold in the US alone . The album also spawned the number @-@ one hit " Bootylicious " . After releasing their remix album This Is the Remix in 2002 , the group announced their temporary break @-@ up to pursue solo projects .

= = = 2002 ? 06 : Simply Deep and acting career debut = = =

In 2002 , Rowland was featured on Nelly 's single " Dilemma " , which won the pair a Grammy Award for Best Rap / Sung Collaboration . The song became one of the most successful singles of the year , topping many charts worldwide including the United States , where it became Rowland 's first number @-@ one single as a solo artist , selling worldwide over 7 @, @ 6 million copies . Caroline Sullivan of The Guardian wrote that because of the song 's success , " Rowland is no longer a mere backing vocalist for Beyoncé " .

Rowland 's debut solo album , Simply Deep , was released on October 22 , 2002 in the US . Featuring production contributions by Mark J. Feist , Big Bert , Rich Harrison , and singers Brandy and Solange Knowles providing background vocals , the album took Rowland 's solo work further into an alternative music mixture , which Rowland described as a " weird fusion [of] a little bit of Sade and a little bit of rock . " Simply Deep debuted at number 12 on the Billboard 200 and at

number three on the R & B / Hip @-@ Hop Albums chart , with first @-@ week sales of 77 @,@ 000 copies sold . It was eventually certified gold by the Recording Industry Association of America (RIAA) . As of 2013 , Simply Deep remains as Rowland 's best @-@ selling album in the US , with 602 @,@ 000 copies sold . Released to an even bigger success in international territories , the album topped the UK Albums Chart and became a gold @-@ seller in Australia , Canada and New Zealand , resulting in worldwide sales total of 2 @.@ 5 million copies . Simply Deep yielded the international top @-@ ten single " Stole " and the UK top @-@ five single " Can 't Nobody " .

Rowland transitioned into acting in 2002 , playing the recurring role of Carly in the fourth season of UPN sitcom The Hughleys . She continued her acting career the following year , with guest roles in UPN sitcom Eve as Cleo , and in NBC drama series American Dreams as Martha Reeves . In August 2003 , Rowland made her big screen debut playing the supporting role of Kia Waterson alongside Robert Englund and Monica Keena in the slasher film , Freddy vs. Jason , which grossed \$ 114 @.@ 5 million at the box office worldwide .

In July 2005 , Rowland starred opposite Duane Martin and Shemar Moore in the romantic comedy The Seat Filler , which grossed \$ 17 @.@ 9 million worldwide . She played Jhnelle , a pop star who falls for an awards @-@ show seat filler whom she mistakes for a high @-@ profile entertainment attorney . After a three @-@ year hiatus that involved concentration on individual solo projects , Rowland rejoined Beyoncé and Michelle Williams for Destiny 's Child 's final studio album Destiny Fulfilled , released on November 15 , 2004 . The album hit number two on the Billboard 200 , and spawned the top @-@ five singles " Lose My Breath " and " Soldier " , which features T.I. and Lil Wayne . The following year , Destiny 's Child embarked on a worldwide concert tour , Destiny Fulfilled ... And Lovin ' It . During the last stop of the European tour in Barcelona , Spain on June 11 , Rowland announced that they would disband following the North American leg of the tour . Destiny 's Child released their first compilation album Number 1 's on October 25 in the US , which peaked at number one on the Billboard 200 . On March 28 , 2006 , Destiny 's Child accepted a star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame .

After Hurricane Katrina in 2005 , Rowland and Beyoncé founded the Survivor Foundation , a charitable entity set up to provide transitional housing for victims and storm evacuees in the Houston , Texas area . The Survivor Foundation extended the philanthropic mission of the Knowles @-@ Rowland Center for Youth , a multi @-@ purpose community outreach facility in downtown Houston . Rowland and Beyoncé lent their voices to a collaboration with Kitten Sera , entitled " All That I 'm Lookin for " . The song appeared on The Katrina CD album , whose proceeds went to the Recording Artists for Hope organization . In 2006 , Rowland joined other artists such as Pink and Avril Lavigne in ads for so @-@ called empowerment tags for the ALDO Fights AIDS campaign , which went on sale exclusively at ALDO stores and benefited the YouthAIDS initiative . Rowland returned to television that same year , playing Tammy Hamilton , in the sixth season of UPN sitcom Girlfriends . Rowland initially hoped her three @-@ episode stint would expand to a larger recurring role , but as the show was moved to The CW Television Network the following year plans for a return eventually went nowhere .

= = = 2007 ? 09 : Ms. Kelly , new management and label = = =

In June 2007 , Kelly Rowland embarked on the Ms. Kelly Tour to promote her second solo album Ms. Kelly . The five date tour visited Europe , North America , Africa and Asia . Ms. Kelly was released on July 3 , 2007 in the United States . Originally entitled My Story , the album 's first version was actually scheduled for a June 2006 release , but Rowland , her management and Columbia Records decided to shelve the album at the last minute to re @-@ work a version with a different vibe as the singer considered the final track listing " too full of midtempo and ballads . " Rowland eventually consulted additional producers to collaborate on the album , including Billy Mann , Mysto & Pizzi , Sean Garrett , Scott Storch , and Polow da Don . Upon its release , Ms. Kelly debuted at number six on the Billboard 200 , and at number two on the R & B / Hip @-@ Hop Albums chart , with first @-@ week sales of 86 @,@ 000 copies . Outside the US , the album widely failed to reprise the success of Simply Deep , barely reaching the top @-@ forty on the majority of

all charts it appeared on , except for the UK , where it opened at number 37 .

Ms. Kelly included the UK top @-@ five hit " Like This " , featuring Eve , and the international top @-@ ten hit " Work " . In July 2007 , Rowland released her first DVD entitled BET Presents Kelly Rowland , which celebrates the release Ms. Kelly and features an interview with Rowland about the album 's production , footage of her time with Destiny 's Child , live performances and music videos . Following the album 's lukewarm sales , it was re @-@ released as an extended play entitled , Ms. Kelly : Diva Deluxe , on March 25 , 2008 . Previously unreleased Bobby Womack cover " Daylight " , a collaboration with Travie McCoy , served as the EP 's lead single and was a moderate success in the UK .

In 2007 , Rowland , along with stars such as Jessica Simpson and the cast of Grey 's Anatomy autographed pink Goody Ouchless brushes that were made available for auction on eBay , with all proceeds going to Breast Cancer Awareness . In addition , the singer teamed up with Kanye West , Nelly Furtado and Snoop Dogg to design a Nike sneaker for another eBay auction . All proceeds went to AIDS Awareness . In October 2007 , Rowland auditioned for the role of Louise , Carrie Bradshaw 's assistant , in the 2008 film adaptation of HBO 's comedy series Sex and the City . The part eventually went to Jennifer Hudson . Two months later , Rowland appeared as a choirmaster in the first season of the NBC talent show Clash of the Choirs among other musicians such as Michael Bolton , Patti LaBelle , Nick Lachey , and Blake Shelton . Rowland 's choir finished fifth in the competition , and Clash of the Choirs did not return for a second season .

In 2008 , Rowland officially became ambassador for MTV 's Staying Alive Foundation , which aims to reduce stigma against people living with HIV and AIDS . She visited projects in Tanzania and Kenya to promote the charity , and underwent an HIV test in Africa to raise awareness of the disease . In 2009 , Rowland connected with Serve.MTV.com , MTV 's platform to connect young people with local volunteerism opportunities , for a series of on @-@ air PSAs . From battling homelessness to beautifying impoverished neighborhoods to saving whales , Rowland was joined by the likes of Cameron Diaz , will.i.am , and Sean Kingston as they discuss causes they volunteer to support , and urge young people to join with their friends in making civic service a part of their lifestyle . That same year , she spearheaded a bone marrow drive , and joined fellow singers Alesha Dixon and Pixie Lott to create T @-@ shirts for River Island in aid of the Prince 's Trust , profits from which help change young lives .

In January 2009 , Rowland ended her professional relationship with Beyoncé 's father Mathew Knowles , who had managed her career since she was a member of Destiny 's Child . Knowles stressed that no animosity was involved in the decision and acknowledged that Rowland will always be a part of the Knowles family . Then two months later , Rowland announced that she left Columbia Records , adding that she " felt the need to explore new directions , new challenges , and new freedoms outside my comfort zone . " In an interview with Entertainment Weekly , Rowland stated that the label ended her contract because Ms. Kelly was not commercially successful . She later signed with Universal Motown Records .

In April 2009 , Rowland was featured on David Guetta 's single " When Love Takes Over " , which topped many charts in Europe , selling over 5 @,@ 5 million copies worldwide , and received a Grammy Award nomination for Best Dance Recording . Billboard crowned the song as the number one dance @-@ pop collaboration of all time . In May 2009 , Rowland was cast to host the first season of Bravo 's reality competition series The Fashion Show alongside Isaac Mizrahi , but was replaced by fashion model Iman in the second season .

= = = 2010 ? 12 : Here I Am and The X Factor UK = = =

In 2010 , Kelly Rowland launched I Heart My Girlfriends , a charity that focuses on self @-@ esteem , date violence prevention , community service , abstinence , sports , drugs and alcohol and smoking avoidance , obesity , disabilities , and education . In April 2010 , Rowland toured Australia alongside Akon , Pitbull , Sean Paul , Jay Sean , and Eve for the Australian urban festival , Supafest . Later that month , her song " Everywhere You Go " , featuring an all @-@ star supergroup of international artists called Rhythm of Africa United , was released as the MTN theme song for the

2010 FIFA World Cup in South Africa . In October 2010 , the American Society of Composers , Authors and Publishers (ASCAP) honored Rowland at the second annual ASCAP Presents Women Behind the Music , an event which recognizes women in all areas of the music industry . Rowland 's first compilation album , *Work : The Best of Kelly Rowland* , was released on October 25 , 2010 but failed to impact the charts .

In January 2011 , Rowland reunited with Nelly on " Gone " , a sequel to their successful 2002 collaboration " Dilemma " . Upon its release , the song failed to reprise the success of " Dilemma " . In April 2011 , Rowland appeared on Italian DJ Alex Gaudino 's single " What a Feeling " , which became another UK top @-@ ten hit . Originally scheduled for release in 2010 , Rowland 's third studio album *Here I Am* was released on July 26 , 2011 in the United States . The album sold 77 @,@ 000 copies in its first week and debuted atop the R & B / Hip @-@ Hop Albums chart . *Here I Am* produced the successful lead single " Commander " , which peaked in the top @-@ ten of many charts in Europe , and the UK top @-@ ten single " Down for Whatever " . It also included another successful single " Motivation " , with Lil Wayne , which topped the R & B / Hip @-@ Hop Songs chart for seven consecutive weeks and was certified double platinum by the Recording Industry Association of America (RIAA) . " Motivation " won Song of the Year at the 2011 Soul Train Music Awards and Top R & B Song at the 2012 Billboard Music Awards , and received a Grammy Award nomination for Best Rap / Sung Collaboration .

Rowland was the face of Diddy 's women 's fragrance *Empress* , the female counterpart to his men 's fragrance *I Am King* . She was also the worldwide ambassador for watchmakers company *TW Steel* . Rowland 's second compilation album , *Playlist : the Very Best of Kelly Rowland* , was released on October 18 , 2011 , but failed to impact the charts . She also released her first fitness DVD entitled , *Sexy Abs with Kelly Rowland* . Later that year , it was confirmed that Rowland would replace Dannii Minogue as a judge for the eighth series of *The X Factor UK* alongside Louis Walsh , Gary Barlow and Tulisa Contostavlos . Due to a conflicting schedule , Rowland did not return for the ninth series in 2012 and was replaced by Nicole Scherzinger . During the Black Women in Music event held on February 8 , 2012 , *Essence* magazine honored Rowland and music executive Sylvia Rhone for their contributions to music . In April 2012 , Rowland toured Australia alongside Ludacris , Chris Brown , Trey Songz , T @-@ Pain , Ice Cube , Lupe Fiasco , and Big Sean for the urban festival , *Supafest* . That same month , she returned to the big screen playing the supporting role of Brenda in the romantic comedy *Think Like a Man* . The film , which also starred Michael Ealy , Jerry Ferrara , Meagan Good , Regina Hall , and Kevin Hart , topped the US box office and grossed \$ 91 @.@ 5 million . Rowland recorded " Need a Reason " with Future and Bei Maejor for the *Think Like a Man* soundtrack .

In June 2012 , Rowland became the face of popular rum brand *Bacardi* . Rowland and German production team *Project B* reworked the *Bacardi* song , " *Bacardi Feeling (Summer Dreamin ')* " , and released an accompanying music video to help promote the brand . In August 2012 , Rowland became a dance master in the first season of the Australian talent show *Everybody Dance Now* alongside Jason Derulo . The show was cancelled after the fourth episode due to poor ratings .

= = = 2013 ? 14 : Talk a Good Game and The X Factor USA = = =

In January 2013 , *Destiny 's Child* released a compilation album entitled *Love Songs* , a collection of romance @-@ themed songs from their previous albums and newly recorded song " Nuclear " . On February 3 , 2013 , during Beyoncé 's performance at the Super Bowl XLVII halftime show , held at the Mercedes @-@ Benz Superdome in New Orleans , Rowland and Michelle Williams joined her on stage to perform " Bootylicious " , " Independent Women " and " Single Ladies (Put a Ring on It) " . On February 24 , 2013 , Rowland co @-@ hosted the Academy Awards pre @-@ show for the 85th Academy Awards alongside Kristin Chenoweth , Lara Spencer , Robin Roberts and Jess Cagle . In May 2013 , it was announced that Rowland would replace Britney Spears as a judge on *The X Factor USA* for its third and final season , joining Simon Cowell , Demi Lovato and fellow new judge Paulina Rubio . Later that month , Rowland performed as a supporting headlining act at the *RiverFest 2013* in Little Rock , Arkansas .

Rowland embarked on the Lights Out Tour , a co @-@ headlining tour with The @-@ Dream , to promote her fourth studio album Talk a Good Game . Formerly titled Year of the Woman , the album was released on June 18 , 2013 in the US . It is Rowland 's first release with Republic Records following Universal Music Group 's decision to close Universal Motown and Universal Republic , and reviving Motown Records and Republic Records . Talk a Good Game sold 68 @,@ 000 copies in its first week and debuted at number four on the Billboard 200 , becoming Rowland 's third top @-@ ten album in the US . The album 's lead single " Kisses Down Low " was a moderate success on the US R & B / Hip @-@ Hop Songs chart and was certified gold by RIAA for exceeded 500 @,@ 000 copies sold . The second and final single " Dirty Laundry " was acclaimed by critics for its lyrical and the emotional honesty . In December 2013 , Rowland appeared in Beyoncé 's " Grown Woman " music video and alongside Williams in Beyoncé 's " Superpower " music video and provided backing vocals on the same track , taken from her self @-@ titled fifth studio album .

In February 2014 , Rowland was featured on Joe 's single " Love & Sex Part 2 " . In March 2014 , she was named a spokesperson for cosmetic company , Caress . During an interview with HuffPost Live on March 26 , 2014 , Rowland revealed that she has begun recording her fifth studio album and said the new music , which encompasses horns , drums , and flutes , was influenced by iconic female singers including Diana Ross . Rowland also announced in the interview that she left Republic Records , adding that she " just needed a fresh , new start . " In June 2014 , Rowland and Beyoncé were featured on Williams ' single " Say Yes " . The same month , her song " The Game " and its music video appeared on Pepsi 's visual album for the 2014 FIFA World Cup titled , Beats of the Beautiful Game . On July 19 , 2014 , Rowland was featured on Adrian Marcel 's song " Honey " from his mixtape Weak After Next and on Beau Vallis 's song " Love Stand Still " . Rowland also contributed background vocals to the song " You 're My Star " , the first single released from Tank 's 2014 album Stronger .

= = = 2015 ? present : Empire , Chasing Destiny and fifth studio album = = =

In August 2015 , she was featured on Jacob Whitesides 's single " I Know What You Did Last Summer " . Rowland is part of the recurring cast of the second season of the American drama television series Empire . She played Leah Walker , Lucious Lyon 's mother , in flashbacks and starred in five episodes . She recorded a song for the show called " Mona Lisa " which included on the EP Empire : Music from " Be True " , released on October 21 , 2015 . On October 26 , 2015 , Rowland released a new song titled " Dumb " which will appear on her fifth album , set for a 2016 release . Rowland says that she 's been hard at work in the studio and will release new music in 2016 , is shooting a music video , and has recorded 45 songs for her new album . Rowland along with other female artists such as Missy Elliot , Kelly Clarkson , Zendaya , Janelle Monae , Lea Michele and newcomers Chloe & Halle , all feature on a charity single put together by US First Lady Michelle Obama . This Is For My Girls was written by Diane Warren and was released on March 15 . The song was created to raise funds and awareness towards Obama 's Let Girls Learn initiative - aimed at boosting education rates amongst adolescent girls around the world who are denied the right to an education The iTunes @-@ exclusive record will be used to both coincide with Obama 's Texan SXSW speech and to promote the First Lady 's third @-@ world educational initiative " Let Girls Learn " .

On April 5 , 2016 Rowland stepped into her " music @-@ mogul shoes " for the debut of Chasing Destiny . Partnering with BET , Rowland began the search to find the next superstars for an all female group . As stated by Rowland herself , she 's not looking for reality stars , but she 's looking for stars . The show also stars Frank Gatson Jr .. The group released its first single in June 2016 titled " All of Us " .

= = Personal life = =

Rowland began dating American football player Roy Williams in 2004 and they became engaged later that year , however , the couple called off their engagement in January 2005 , two months prior

to the planned wedding ceremony in March . Williams stated that they did not " know each other well enough to get married " . Shortly after , Rowland appeared on the cover of Modern Bride wearing her wedding dress . The singer stated that she was so embarrassed about the cover because the public already knew about her separation from Williams . " I didn 't even want to go out of the house and I really didn 't want to put my family in the position of having to answer questions about the wedding " .

Rowland and her manager Tim Witherspoon (not to be confused with the former heavyweight boxing champion) reportedly began dating in 2011 . She announced her engagement to Witherspoon during an appearance on The Queen Latifah Show on December 16 , 2013 . They were married in Costa Rica on May 9 , 2014 , with guests including Beyoncé and her sister Solange Knowles . On June 10 , 2014 , Rowland announced via Instagram that she and Witherspoon were expecting their first child . On November 4 , 2014 , Rowland gave birth to her son Titan Jewell Witherspoon .

= = Artistry = =

= = = Musical style = = =

Rowland 's voice is classified as a three @-@ octave lyric mezzo @-@ soprano , and her music includes various styles of musical genres such as contemporary R & B , pop , hip hop , soul , rock and dance . Her debut solo album Simply Deep (2002) followed an adult @-@ alternative rock sound , while her second album Ms. Kelly (2007) featured an urban sound . In an interview with The Independent , Rowland admitted that with her first two albums she struggled to find her sound . " I was in a stage with the first two records where I was searching and I was like , let me try a rock @-@ dance approach , the label [and management] wanted me to try it and I did it ... And then after that came a more urban approach with Ms. Kelly in 2007 . " Her third album Here I Am (2011) consisted of a pop and R & B sound , with subtle influences of dance . Rowland stated that meeting David Guetta had influenced her to record dance music . During production of the album , Rowland stated that part of the reason for the new sound on Here I Am was wanting to do something different , saying " I knew I couldn 't be afraid of this direction , and I wasn 't going to let the thoughts and opinions of others make me afraid to go in this direction " .

Most of the lyrical themes in Simply Deep (2002) speak of love and life experiences , particularly in the songs " Dilemma " , in which Rowland expresses her endless love to her love interest , and " Stole " , in which she sings about an emotional " tale of school shootings and suicides " . In Ms. Kelly (2007) , Rowland covers topics such as her " deeply personal relationship issues " in her songs , " Still in Love with My Ex " , " Flashback " , " Love " , " Better Without You " and " Gotsta Go (Part I) " . Alex Macpherson of The Guardian noted that the songs could be about Rowland 's former relationship with American football player Roy Williams . Here I Am (2011) included common themes of womanhood , sexual intimacy and love . Some of Rowland 's other songs such as " Work " , " I 'm Dat Chick " and " Work It Man " have been musically compared to the work of former Destiny 's Child bandmate Beyoncé .

= = = Influences = = =

Rowland has cited Whitney Houston , her namesake Kevin Rowland and Janet Jackson as her biggest musical influences . She stated that Houston " was the woman that inspired me to sing " . Rowland is also inspired by Sade Adu and says that " she has a style that 's totally her own " . Her other inspirations include Destiny 's Child , Martin Luther King , Jr . , Mariah Carey , Mary J. Blige , Naomi Campbell , and Oprah Winfrey , whom she describes as " the female version of God " . Rowland has discussed how living in Miami has influenced her style , growth , and music . From a fashion perspective , Rowland credits her grandmother , Halle Berry , Jennifer Lopez , Beyoncé , and Oprah Winfrey as her style icons . Rowland cited Houston , Beyoncé , and Brandy Norwood as

vocal inspirations for her second solo album Ms. Kelly , " I love how different they are . I love how they take themselves to the next level " . Her third solo album Here I Am was inspired by Donna Summer and Diana Ross , as well as dance producers David Guetta and will.i.am. Rowland 's fourth solo album Talk a Good Game was also inspired by Houston , Marvin Gaye , and Stevie Wonder .

= = = Public image = = =

After Destiny 's Child disbanded , Rowland has always been compared by the media to her former groupmate Beyoncé . After the international success of her singles " Dilemma " and " Stole " and of her debut album Simply Deep , music critics wrote of Rowland as an emancipated and different artist from Beyoncé , that has established herself as a solo singer and songwriter . Over the years , the media have speculated about a feud between the two and have often referred to Rowland as living in Beyoncé 's shadow . In an interview with omg ! Insider , Rowland commented on the feud rumors stating , " I think the people wanted those stories for years and that 's just so sad on them because it 's not like that " . She also commented on her relationship with Beyoncé stating , " I love my sister and she is so incredibly supportive . One of the closest people to me . I love her to death " . Rowland expressed her envy of Beyoncé 's solo success in the lyrics to " Dirty Laundry " : " When my sister was on stage , killing it like a motherfucker , I was in rage , feeling it like a motherfucker . Bird in a cage , you 'd never know what I was dealing with . Went our separate ways but I was happy she was killin ' it . Bittersweet , she was up , I was down . No lie , I feel good for her but what do I do now ? " . The song garnered widespread media attention upon its release .

Rowland stated that there was a time in her life when she struggled about being dark @-@ skinned . Beyoncé 's mother Tina Knowles would eventually help Rowland embrace her skin color . In October 2007 , Rowland underwent plastic surgery to receive breast implants . She stated , " I simply went from an A @-@ cup to a B @-@ cup " and that " the decision was 10 years in the making " . In 2012 , Rowland ranked at number 61 on Complex magazine 's list of " The 100 Hottest Female Singers of All Time " and was recognized as one of the best @-@ dressed women by Glamour UK . In April 2013 , Rowland ranked seventh on People 's Most Beautiful in the World list .

= = Discography = =

Simply Deep (2002)
Ms. Kelly (2007)
Here I Am (2011)
Talk a Good Game (2013)

= = Filmography = =

Freddy vs. Jason (2003)
The Seat Filler (2005)
Think Like a Man (2012)

= = Tours = =

Headlining

2003 : Simply Deeper Tour
2007 : Ms. Kelly Tour
2013 : Lights Out Tour (Co @-@ headlined with The @-@ Dream)

Supporting

2010 : Supafest (Australia)
2011 : F.A.M.E. Tour (North America)
2012 : Supafest (Australia)