



# BEYOND THE SCORE

A CLOSER LOOK AT MUSICAL THEATRE

*Show Spotlight: The Wiz*

A DAZZLING  
RETELLING

TALENTED TEAM

EASE ON DOWN  
THE ROAD



ISSUE THIRTY TWO



C. BALDWIN

# A Dazzling Retelling



In 1975, audiences were invited to join Dorothy along the road to Oz, where she would meet new friends and embark on their way to see the Wizard. Though the story is based on L. Frank Baum's *Wizard of Oz*, this was no ordinary retelling of the original. *The Wiz* captivated audiences with its music, and created a story rooted in contemporary African-American culture. *The Wiz* was nominated for a whopping nine Tony Awards and won eight, including Best Musical. Since then a feature film starring Diana Ross and Michael Jackson was made, and a live version aired on NBC.

# Talented Team



Ken Harper: The producer who thought of and brought *The Wiz* to Broadway.



Stephanie Mills: The incredible voice and talent who portrayed Dorothy on stage. She is also an accomplished Grammy-award winning artist.



Geoffrey Holder: The director who brought *The Wiz* to life on stage. He also doubled and did the costume design as well. He won two Tony Awards: Best Direction of a Musical and Best Costume Design.



Charlie Smalls: A composer and lyricist who wrote the music and lyrics for this musical. He won the Tony Award for Best Original Score.

# Ease On Down The Road



"Ease On Down The Road" is one of the most popular songs from this musical. In fact, as a publicity campaign for the musical, the cast sang the song on a TV commercial. The song hit the Billboard Soul Singles chart and the Hot 100! Click on the photo to watch *The Wiz Live* cast sing this song!

# SOURCES

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