



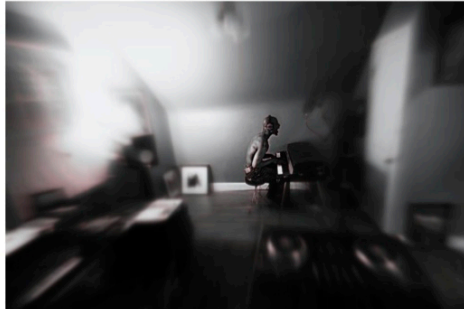
# TRUE LAURELS



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## Wendel Patrick: A Hip Hop Orchestrator

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By Lawrence B  
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Kevin Gift, better known as Wendel Patrick in the world of rap, is a gem in Hip Hop's rugged landscape. When he's not beat-boxing, killing a set of turntables or cooking up a track that'll make you unconsciously bob your head, he's practicing his first musical love: the piano. Before entering the rap world, Wendel was a classically trained pianist; the complete opposite side of the musical spectrum of how Hip Hop is typically perceived. That unique introduction to music, grouped with constant travel throughout the world at a young age is what has made the appropriately surnamed Gift, such a well-versed producer.

" Classical piano and Hip Hop are two completely different worlds. I believe that comes out of with music. My father is from Trinidad and my mother is from Jamaica so when I was 12, I was in a reggae band. All those different kinds of music are really the root of my fascination with sound. If you know the rules of music, you can make a beat out of anything because all sounds have a rhythm and beat." -Wendel Patrick

That acute ability to isolate sound is what helped Wendel to create a such an amazing project like his 2011 album, *Forthcoming*. Listening to the project, you can instantly feel the attention and nurturing put into creating an experience. Every beat of a drum is felt, every guitar string's vibration is felt, every lyric Wendel spit, as well as every piano key. Songs like "B More to BK" that features Eagle Nebula and "Still Addicted" featuring my man Eze Jackson give that cookout, freestyling with homies feel that will always be refreshing. The most remarkable and noteworthy aspect of the project's production is that Wendel had no live mic'd instruments. All sounds were

played from his keyboard with adjusted kits to create a real-instrument vibe.

"The key to my production is that when using kits on the keyboard, to play as if I'm using the real instruments. The way a guitar is played isn't the same as a drum so I play them accordingly and, in turn, get a more authentic sound." -Wendel

The complexity of his process reflects Wendel's true skill and how he can rock crowds every month at the Windup Space in Baltimore without spitting one rhyme.