Larnelle Harris/KY Music Hall of Fame

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A 1969 WKU graduate is among the artists being inducted into the Kentucky Music Hall of Fame in Lexington tonight.

Amy Bingham has more on Larnelle Harris’s latest achievement in this week’s View from the Hill.

He’s won five Grammy awards, eleven Dove awards and is already a member of the Gospel Music Hall of Fame. But tonight, the man who received an honorary doctorate from WKU in 2008, will have yet another prestigious award to add to his list.

His name is synonymous with inspirational music.

 “When he sings, he really takes people to a different place.”

And for more than three decades, Larnelle Harris’s magical voice has taken him farther than he ever imagined.

 “Just a kid from Danville, Kentucky who had a dream on his heart, I did my first concert when I was nine years old and I’m just so thankful that I’m able to live out that dream.”

He’s performed all over the world, but Harris gives lots of credit to the music education he received here at WKU in the late ‘60’s, studying with his voice teacher Ohm Pauli.

 “That was a part of the preparation for what I didn’t even know I was going to be doing so a lot of that inspiration came from right here.”

Harris returns to Bowling Green often, performing with Orchestra Kentucky. He’s even asked conductor Jeff Reed to be part of the Kentucky Music Hall of Fame Induction ceremony.

 “My first response was are you sure you have the right person? There are so many people Larnelle could have asked to do this. He’s sung for presidents, you know, he’s sold millions of records.”

Reed says Harris’s honors are about much more than his music.

 “I knew he deserved it because of his voice but there’s also Larnelle the man, the person people know and everyone loves and respects.”

In addition to performing for President and Mrs. Bush in the early 90’s, Harris was also part of the first gospel concert ever held inside the Kremlin one week after the 1991 attempted coup.

With this week’s View from the Hill, I’m Amy Bingham.