

RELIGION

Portland Mass Choir

In the 25th chapter of Matthew, Christ says that the person who is faithful with small things shall one day be entrusted with much. That scripture could find no better illustration than the Portland Mass Choir. The choir's debut release, It's Jesus, is proof-positive that single-minded purpose and devotion to the Lord indeed yields great returns.

With a sound that is both cutting-edge contemporary, yet still firmly rooted in tradition, the Portland Mass Choir is creating its own, unique definition of Gospel music. The title song from It's Jesus begins as a soul-stirring ballad before sliding into a smooth urban groove. It also makes a simple but powerful statement that sums up the choir's message and mission.

"Our choir is made up of people of all denominations, races and backgrounds," says co-founder and conductor, Ray Tellis, "but Christ is the common bond that brings us together and makes us strong. We live the life we sing about, and if it's not about Him, it's not worth doing."

Among numerous stand-outs, "Deliverance" showcases both the Portland Mass Choir's jazzier and traditional side. "Lord We Praise You" is a dramatic, heartrending song of worship, and "Come and Go" is a joyful, uptempo invitation to lift up the name of the Lord.

"All of our songs are message songs," explains Ray, "and all of them point directly to Him."

While the choir members share a common focus and purpose, the Portland Mass Choir is also the realization of a personal dream held by Ray almost from the day he was born. "When I was two weeks old, my pastor laid hands on me and said that

God was going to anoint me to play music," says Ray. "And I've been doing it almost ever since."

Ray was raised in a devout Christian home, surrounded by older brothers and sisters who all sang and played music around the house and in the church choir. By age four, Ray was playing the piano. He was that choir's accompanist at age 12, and its conductor by the time he was 15.

While the adult choir was initially skeptical of the leadership of an adolescent, Ray's dedication and abundant talents prevailed, and he was soon accepted and respected in his new role, where he remained for a number of years.

Having been born with a natural gift, Ray received his only formal musical training in his middle and high school bands, playing the trumpet, though he had an innate ability to make music on any instrument he spent enough time to become familiar with.

After high school, Ray spent more than a decade working in the Portland transportation system, all the while remaining active in music, taking on duties as choir director and worship leader at several churches in the Portland area.

As Ray filled his days with dual careers in the workaday world as well as the church, he also harbored a vision of greater things, playing keyboards and arranging on a custom album project in early 1983 that pulled together many of Portland's finest Gospel talents and become the seed of the Portland Mass Choir.

Ray's wife, Ada Tellis, was also born into a musical family and sang in church and professionally since early childhood. Now a singer and songwriter in Portland Mass, it was

Ada who took Ray's ideas for a choir and began organizing them into reality.

In March of 1993, Portland Mass Choir's first workshop was kicked off by Donald Taylor, director of the renowned L.A. Mass Choir. Ada's advertising, promotion and public service announcements brought out a large, multi-cultural group of people which, by April of that same year, had evolved into the Portland Mass Choir. Ada brought to the choir a desire to see the Body of Christ come together in one mind and one accord, not only as Gospel singers, but as Christians who sing the gospel message of Jesus Christ.

Ray is currently the worship pastor at Portland's New Beginnings Christian Center, where his wife joins him on the music praise team. Ray and Ada have watched as the dream of a community mass choir has taken on a life far beyond their original expectations.

"The choir became something more than we had anticipated," says Ada, "but in our spirits, we felt right because we could sense the Lord at work in it."

So many times, as Christians, we try to be approved by man, but it's really all about Christ. God is not looking for superstars, or men that other men will follow. He wants the praise that's due Him, and that's the realization around which Portland Mass Choir was formed."

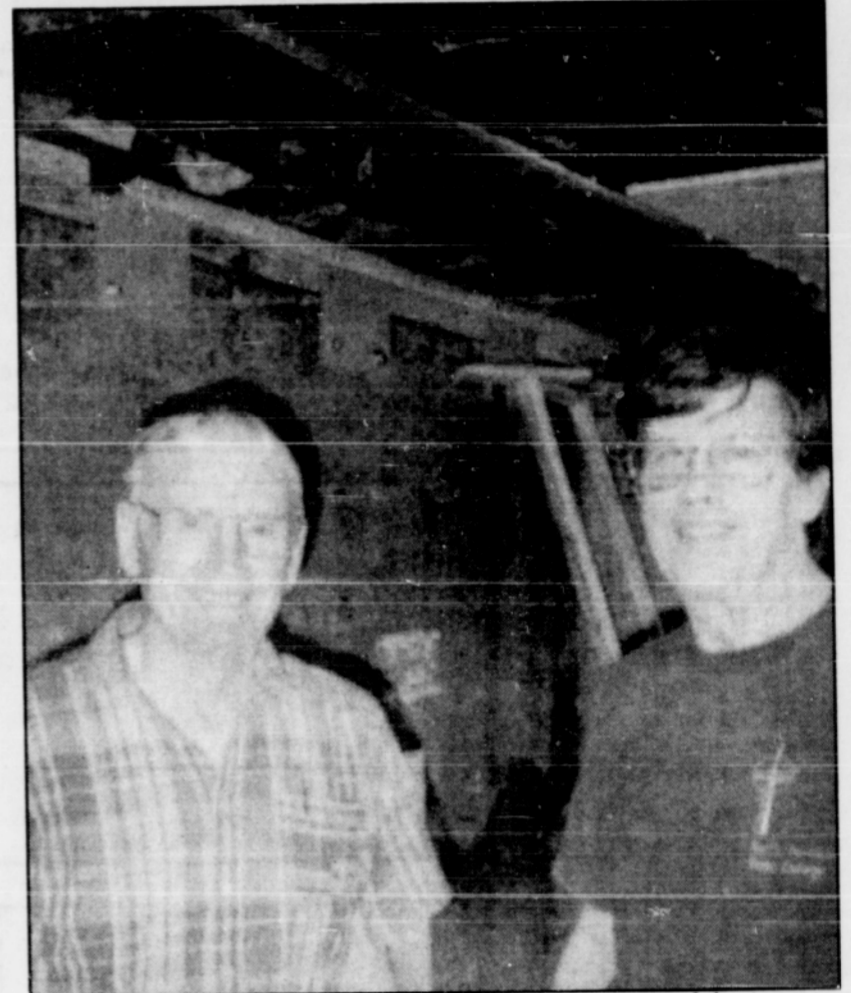
"Presentation and professionalism are important parts of what we do," Ray concludes, "but we really are groomed towards ministry. What's a song without a soul? What good is it if people aren't saved? That's the whole purpose of Portland Mass Choir."

Sheetrock Work Completed In Vancouver House!

Thanks to apprentices from Willamette Carpentry Training Center, and the Coordinator, Ron Hansen, the sheetrock work is completed on the Vancouver House. Taping has begun, with sanding and other finish work remaining to be done. Willamette Carpentry Training Center is part of Carpenters' Local, #2154.

Much of the insulation has been installed in the Gantenbein House. It was expected to have been finished before now, but Site-Superintendent Bruce Edman has been working alone most of the time. It's a big job for one man, even a dedicated man like Bruce. He is thankful for those who come by to help, even for a little while, like Bill Kennington, from Central Bible Church, who lends his experienced skills whenever he can. Also, Jim Spinks, from Good Shepherd Church, brought a friend and spent a Saturday afternoon working at the site.

Different kinds of help are needed. For instance, Rev. James Coleman has offered to run some of the necessary errands that otherwise would take Bruce away from the site, and now that there has been a generous planting of new shrubbery, supplied by Superior Landscaping, Inc., someone is needed to take care of the watering.



Travis Oliveira (left) and his brother, Quinn, were part of the team from Willamette Carpentry Training Center who installed the sheetrock in the Vancouver House.

The Bible: It's Always Relevant

(NU) - "Head of Christ," a painting by American artist Warner Sallman has been reproduced more than 500 million times since 1940. It is suggested that people respond to this painting because it portrays an accessible and reassuring Jesus. As the Bible reminds us, "Jesus Christ never changes. He is the same yesterday, today and forever." For information on the work and programs of the American Bible Society, write ABS, 1865 Broadway, New York, NY 10023. (News USA)

The rich never feel so good as when they are speaking of their possessions as responsibilities.
—Robert Lynd

The Prophet's Mohammed Last Sermon

(This sermon was delivered on the 9th day of Dhul Hijjah 10 A.H. in the Valley Of Mount Ararat)

"O People, lend me an attentive ear, for I know not whether, after this year, I shall ever be amongst you again. Therefore listen to what I am saying to you very carefully and Take These Words To Those Who Could Not Be Present Here Today.

O People, just as you regard this month, this day, this city as Sacred, so regard the life and property of every Muslim as a sacred trust. Return the goods entrusted to you to their rightful owners. Hurt no one so that no one may hurt you. Remember that you will indeed meet your Lord, and that He will indeed reckon your deeds. Allah has forbidden you to take usury (Interest), therefore all interest obligation shall henceforth be waived.

Beware of Satan, for the safety of your religion. He has lost all hope that he will ever be able to lead you astray in big things, so beware of following him in small things.

O People, it is true that you have

certain rights with regards to your women, but they also have rights over you. If they abide by your right then to them belongs the right to be fed and clothed in kindness. Do treat your women well and be kind to them for they are your partners and committed helpers. And it is your right that they do not make friends with any one of whom you do not approve, as we as never to commit adultery.

O People, listen to me in earnest, worship Allah, say your five daily prayers (Salah), fast during the month of Ramadan, and give your wealth in Zakat. Perform Hajj if you can afford to. You know that every Muslim is the brother of another Muslim. You are all equal. Nobody has superiority over other except piety and good action.

Remember, one day you will appear before Allah and answer for your deeds. So beware, do not stray from the path of righteousness after I am gone.

All those who listen to me shall pass on my words to others and those

to others again; and may the last ones understand my words better than those who listen to me directly. Be my witness O Allah, that I have conveyed Your message to Your people."

For Information about Islam, call 246-0813

PORTLAND MASS CHOIR
RECORDING CHOIR

GOSPEL ALBUM RELEASE CONCERT
July 15, 1995 • 7:30 pm • Mount Olivet Baptist Church • 8501 N Chautauqua
Tapes and compact discs now available at music stores. **Free Admission**

PMC is now recruiting committed Christian singers and musicians who are interested in Gospel music ministry and future recordings. Must be 18 or older and under 100 years of age. For more information please contact Ada Tellis at 288-4413.

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Evangelistic Service 7:30pm
Tuesday Pastoral Teaching 7:00pm

FRIDAY
Evangelistic Service 7:00pm

DAILY
Prayer 12:00pm & 6:00pm

(503) 774-5470
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Church School 9:30 to 10:30am,
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Radio Ministry each Sunday, 8:00am on KBMS
A Teaching Church With A Reaching Ministry
Dr. James E. Martin, Senior Pastor
(503) 240-PRAY

St. Mark Baptist Church

103 NE Morris St., Portland, OR 97212

- Sunday School - 9:30am
 - Sunday Morning Worship Service - 11:00am
 - Sunday School Teacher's Meeting Tues - 6:30pm
 - Bible Study Wednesday 6:00pm
 - Prayer Meeting Wednesday - 7:00pm
- Church Phone Number
287-7457

We Invite You To Come And Worship With Us.
The Church Where Everybody is Somebody And Christ Is All.
Dr. Joe S. Hardie, Pastor

Ms Collins Recuperating

Ms Evelyn Collins founder of the Grace Collins Memorial Center and better known as Miss Collins is presently recuperating from a skin graft to her leg.

We would like to solicit your prayers for this long-time community activist.

All questions may be directed to 281-6930, ask for Irma or LaRan.

Lighthouse Church Of God In Christ

8138 N Hudson
Portland, OR 97203
(503) 283-3558 • Church (503) 283-0169 • Home
Elder Tom Moore, Pastor

- Sunday School 9:30 A.M.
- Sunday Morning Worship 11:45 A.M.
- YPWW 6:30 P.M.
- Sunday Evening Worship 7:30 P.M.
- Tuesday Prayer/Bible Band 7:30 P.M.
- Friday Worship Service 7:00 P.M.

"Come Unto Me All Ye That Labor And Are Heavy Laden,
And I Will Give You Rest. Take My Yoke Upon You
And Learn Of Me." Matt. 11:28-29

We have a place for you. Come fellowship with us!

A Welcome Is Awaiting You!