

RELIGION

Thirty Years After Making History with "Oh! Happy Day" Gospel Pioneer Edwin Hawkins Revamps it for the New Millennium

Gospel legend Edwin Hawkins is revamping his classic gospel hit "Oh! Happy Day" just in time for the New Millennium.

When the Edwin Hawkins Singers first recorded the songs in 1969 "Oh! Happy Day" it zoomed to the top Ten on pop, soul and gospel charts in the United States and the United Kingdom. It then went on to sell a staggering seven million copies and remains to this day the best-selling gospel song of all time. Now, as the world is experiencing a renewed spirituality with the advent of the New Millennium, Hawkins has re-fashioned a club remix of his classic song that is already catching on in Europe.

As a result of this success Pioneer Music Group (PMG) has entered into an association with the Memphis-based World-Class Gospel label, to bring Hawkins' latest project and other stellar black gos-

pel music's all-time best-selling single isn't Kurt Franklin's "Stomp" or BeBe & CeCe Winans' "Addictive Love," it is Edwin Hawkins' Grammy winning "Oh! Happy Day" which has sold over 7 million in sales from the dozens of winning "Oh! Happy Day" which has sold over 7 million in sales from the dozens of other renditions that have been done by Kenny Rogers, Quincy Jones, Mavis Staples & Aretha Franklin, Joan Baez and most recently BeBe Winans among others. The song has been featured in several commercials including a current AT&T commercial.

If Edwin had never done another thing else in gospel, his name would surely be in the history books. But, he has done so much more that he's universally hailed as the godfather of urban contemporary gospel. He and his brother Walter pioneered the crossover style of gospel that gospel superstar Kirk Franklin is

knows what he's done and Kirk Franklin has publicly credited Hawkins as a major influence on his musical style.

Edwin has arguably done more to shape and mold the vocations of future gospel artists than anyone of his generation. From the late sixties to the early eighties, the Hawkins Family was hands-down the most popular gospel dynasty in the world. They not only monopolized the U.S. gospel industry, but conquered Europe and the Far East as well. Edwin Hawkins created the framework for the modern urban choir. In the sixties, gospel choirs only sang traditional church music, but he created vocal arrangements and added instrumentation that made his choir's gospel attractive to pop and soul audiences.

Edwin's new album, Love is the Only Way, is his first solo album since 1989. It features both a revamped club and a House remix of "Oh! Happy Day" which is already

being played in European disco. Aside from traditional styled church songs, the album also features the smooth urban adult contemporary approach to gospel that Edwin pioneered thirty years ago. Considering that he's done almost all there is to do in the gospel field, as he looks to the future Edwin says, "I'm writing some musicals. I want to do more soundtracks for movies Eventually, I want to write a book where I tell all."



Gospel Pioneer, Edwin Hawkins

Spirit and the Blues Soulful Mix of Gospel & Rock 'n' Roll

Following on the heels of his well-received 1998 release, Good Stuff, EarthBeat! Is to announce Eric Bibb's acoustic blues album, Spirit And The Blues! In this second release from this Best Newcomer Award-winner, a soulful mix of blues, gospel and rock 'n' roll is delivered, exuding spiritual grace in Bibb's intimate, effortless style.

The recipient of numerous favorable reviews, Bibb showcases his assured, passionate vocals combined with his fine finger-picking guitar technique artists leading the black acous-

tic revival movement", by Steppin' Out Magazine.

The son of folk and blues singer, Leon Bibb, Eric has toured across Europe performing at some of the most prestigious celebrations of acoustic music, including the Cambridge Folk Festival, the Dublin Festival and the London Blues Festival. His love of gospel was inspired by his performances at church concerts throughout Sweden for the last two decades and is reflected in his contemporary arrangements of traditional "Negro Spirituals" such as Lonesome

Valley, just Keep Goin' On and I Want You to Walk With Me.

His stateside tour, Mali to Memphis, beginning in February 1999 will take him from California to New York highlighting both of his EarthBeat! Releases-Goof Stuff and Spirit And The Blues.

From the Mississippi Delta-Muddy Waters' country-to a tribute to one of his early heroes, Odetta, Bibb continues to offer up his own electric mix of folk, blues and gospel guaranteed to add diversity to the listening experience.

Irvington Covenant Church

Irvington Covenant Church has planned a groundbreaking, dedication ceremony for an 8,000-square-foot worship and service center on Sunday, March 28, at 1:00PM at 4046 NE Martin Luther King, Jr. Blvd. "This has been a seven-year process filled with tremendous challenges," said Henry G. Greenidge, Pastor of the multi-racially diverse congregation, "but we have a chorus that is our theme song." He did not bring us out this far to take us back again. He brought us out to take us into the Promised Land! Though there are giants in the land, we need not be afraid. He brought us out to take us into the Promised Land.

The building will be specially designed for acoustics. Besides the church's emphasis on music as part of its worship the multi-purpose center will also be the home to the Renaissance Music Academy, an after-school latchkey program for elementary school students. The focus of the academy will be Black music forms of Gospel and jazz. "The goal will be to develop a generation of worship leaders for the African-American church," said Greenidge.

Irvington Covenant Church is also working on an economic development project to provide jobs and low-cost housing in the area.

The Portland Chapter of the American Guild of Organists

Invites you to embark on a historic voyage... of Titanic proportions.

Titanic: A Musical Night to Remember

Sunday, April 25, 1999
7:00pm

The Old Church
SW 11th Avenue at Clay
222-2031

Featuring Grant Edwards

On the newly restored Hook & Hastings pipe organ of 1883

The Choir of St. Stephen's Episcopal Parish

David E. Nelsen, director
And Special Guests
Chris Harper, soprano
Kurt-Alexander Zeller, tenor

Admission: \$10 at the door,
Free Admission with AGO membership card.

Passover at the Mittleman Jewish Community Center

Passover begins on the evening of Wednesday, March 31. The Mittleman Jewish Community Center is sponsoring a Passover Seder on the 31st that is open to the entire community. The Seder begins at 6:00 PM. Amy Shapiro will lead it. A traditional Passover meal will be served complete with matzah ball soup, gefilte fish, main dishes and dessert. Of course all the ceremonial foods and wine will be included. Prices for the Passover Seder are as follows: Before March 26, \$28 for adults and \$18 for children under 12. Pre-paid

reservations are required. The Seder will be held at the MJCC, 6651 SW Capitol Hwy.

Jewish Connections of Portland will be sponsoring a second night Seder on Thursday, April 1. It will be held at the Benson Hotel, 309 SW Broadway. Piatti on Broadway will cater the dinner Piatti's executive chef, John Wirtis, will also lead the Seder. Tickets for the JCP Passover Seder are \$25 for JCP Members and \$30 for non-members. Pre-paid reservations are required.

For information on the Passover Seders call 244-0111.

OBITUARIES

In Loving Memory of Vera J. Thomas, Sunrise September 25, 1914 Sunset, March 11, 1999. Funeral services were held for Vera J. Thomas on Friday March 19 at 1:00 PM at Bethel AME Church. Mrs. Thomas passed away on March 11 in Portland at the age of 84. She was born to Robert and Mary (Stevenson) Williamson September 25, 1914 in LaCompte, LA.

Vera attended school in Louisiana and moved to Portland in the early 1940's. She later worked at the Presidio Army Base in San Francisco. Vera moved back to Portland to take care of her mother in 1976. She opened Vera's hat boutique in 1977 and retired in 1994.

Vera had been a longtime member of Bethel AME Church. She is survived by her daughter Barbara Whitlow of Portland; brother Robert B. Williams of Portland; five grandchildren, David Whitlow of

Nevada, CA, Renee' Fields of Chino, CA., Kymberly Whitlow of Santa Clara CA., Hillery Whitlow Jr. of Portland and Robert B. Whitlow of Portland; and five great grandchildren, Eunich and Skye Ontiveros, David Whitlow Jr., Jordan Fields and Royce Waller Whitlow.

Interment will be in rose City Cemetery.

Those who wish may contribute to Alzheimer Association. Arrangements are in care of Caldwell's Colonial Chapel.

In Loving Memory of Mary Katherine Byrd, Sunrise June 25, 1907 Sunset March 14, 1999

Mary Katherine Byrd was born in Gilliam, LA, on June 25, 1907 and passed away March 14, 1999 in Portland, OR. Mary lived in Portland since 1952 and was a Housekeeper, a member of Vancouver

Avenue Baptist Church. At Vancouver Avenue Baptist Church she was on the Usher and Mothers Board, she enjoyed fishing, quilting, cooking and gardening.

Mary Katherine Byrd leaves to cherish her memory: Arthur L. Palmer, Son, Portland, OR; Mary L. Houston, Daughter, Houston, TX.

In Loving Memory of Annie Mae Hornbuckle born April 26th, 1918, died March 14, 1999. Annie was born in Magee, Mississippi and she then moved to Portland in 1955.

She was a member of the Albina Christian Life Center for twenty-five years. Annie Mae married Lewis Hornbuckle in December of 1969. Survivors of Annie Mae Hornbuckle Mary D. Thomas sister of Portland, Edward McDonald brother of Haddysberg, Mississippi, J.C. McDonald brother of Oakland, California.

North Portland Bible College

4905 N. Vancouver Ave. Portland, Oregon

Spring Schedule, March 29 - June 11, 1999

Monday Evenings, 6:30 - 9:30 p.m. New Testament Survey III Ministry to Urban Families III	E. Nance, M. Div. Carol Chism, N.S.W.
Tuesday Mornings, 9:00 - 12 Noon New Testament Survey III	E. Nance, M.Div.
Tuesday Evenings, 6:30 - 9:30 p.m. Bible Lands and Customs Equipping the Saints II Lay Counseling II MS Windows 95/Word 97	Michael Lindsey, M.Div. Brian Fraught, B.A. Jay Held, M.Div. Annett Stanton, B.A.
Wednesday Mornings, 9:00 - Noon Bible Lands and Customs	Michael Lindsey, M. Div.
Thursday Mornings 9:00 - Noon Old Testament Survey III Educational Ministries of the Church: Making Our Programs Ready for 2000	James Coleman, M.A. Debra Jenkins, M.A.
Thursday Evenings, 6:30 - 9:30 p.m. Old Testament Survey III Celebration and Despair in the Psalms Christian Social Ethics	James Coleman, M.A. Gerald Wilson, Ph.D. LeRoy Haynes, D. Min.

(At Allen Temple)

Call 288 2919 to register, or to receive information