

RELIGION

The Mississippi Mass Choir

"Serving God Through song" is the motto and the mission of the Mississippi Mass Choir.

Although striving to succeed in the gospel music industry, above all else, the choir's purpose is to help establish the gospel of Jesus Christ throughout the world.

Since its formation in 1988 the choir has won numerous honors and awards for its contributions to gospel music. The group has traveled extensively throughout the United States, toured Japan and appeared in Nassau, the Bahamas.

When you consider the level of success enjoyed by this relatively novice group of singers it becomes evident that serving the Lord pays off.

After wrestling with the idea of forming a mass choir for some time, Frank Williams, a member of the Jackson Southernaires and an executive in the gospel music division of Malco Records, decided to form The Mississippi Mass Choir.

In the spring of 1989, just five weeks after the debut album was released, Billboard magazine certified it as the

No. 1 spiritual album in the country. Six weeks later, the album also reached top of the Cash Box chart.

At the 1989 Stellar Awards, the choir received four Stellar Choir of the Year Album of the Year Best Artist, and Best Gospel Video.

On December 8, 1990, The Mississippi Mass Choir recorded their second live project, "God Gets The Glory," at the Mississippi Coliseum before over 8,000 supporters from across the state and across the country. Two weeks after the album was released in October 1991, it debuted on the billboard chart in the 16 position. By December, the magazine had certified it as the No. 1-gospel album in the country.

In 1992, the blessings kept flowing. The Choir received a Stellar Award for Traditional Choir of the Year and was also nominated for album of the year and video of the year. Billboard Magazine named the Choir Gospel Artists of the Year and "God Gets the Glory" was named the 1992 Gospel Record of the Year by the magazine. The choir also received the "Best Sellers Award" from

the National Association of Record Merchandisers (NARM) and the Innovation Award from the 3M corporation. It remains to be seen how many more units will be sold. In January 1996, after three years, the choir presented their fourth live recording, "I'll See You in the Rapture." Guest artists included Rev. James Moore, Rev. Walter Hawkins, Rev. Milton Biggam, and Doug and Melvin Williams. This project is another phenomenal blessing for the choir. Built on a solid foundation, the Mississippi Mass Choir presses on, and continues to spread God's word through song to the upmost parts of the earth. Members of the group believe that all of the accolades and awards that have come the choir's way were given because the group first sought the kingdom of

heaven. Through it all, the choir has maintained its humility, realizing all praise and honor belongs to the Lord.



Portland Oregon Minister Comes Home

Mary Manin Morrissey, founder and spiritual leader of Living Enrichment Center, a 3,000 member church outside of Portland, Oregon, was in Dharamsala, India, September 11-16 at the invitation of the Dalai Lama, as part of the Synthesis Community, which includes leading scientists, philosophers, spiritual teachers, ecologists, journalists, and others. Guided by His Holiness, participants addressed issues of world concern, solutions that will bring about change and the need for science and spirituality to form a new synthesis. On Sunday, September 19th at 3:30 p.m. Morrissey will be featured in a two-hour television

special called "Building Your Dreams With Mary Manin Morrissey" on Oregon Public Broadcasting (OPB).

Building Your Dreams With Mary Manin Morrissey is an inspiring program where Morrissey draws on her remarkable 25-year adventure in faith, and how she discovered spiritual principles that made seemingly impossible dreams come true for her and thousands of others. The viewer will learn to discover what their dreams are, how to test them, overcome any obstacles, and how to see their dreams come true. The program features an 8-step process for creating a life that everyone deserves.

They are:

- 1 How to free yourself from the limitations of the past
- 2 The unexpected energy released by practicing forgiveness
- 3 Five essential questions to ask before you commit to your dream
- 4 How gratitude can increase your sense of worthiness and self-esteem
- 5 How to overcome the fears that hold you back
- 6 A new way to understand failure and misfortune
- 7 The simple key to increasing abundance and prosperity in your life
- 8 How to build a relationship

with the divine guidance that is always there for you.

Through personal anecdotes and storytelling, as well as examples from the lives of other people who have benefited from Mary's ministry, Building Your Dreams With Mary Manin Morrissey is both compelling and serves as a guide for anyone that hopes for a richer life. This program on OPB will open the mind and heart of the viewer to discover that with confidence and spiritual support dreams really can come true.

The National Church Leadership Conference

The National Church Leadership Conference will be held October 14-16, 1999 from 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. and hosted by New Hope Community Church, 11731 S. E. Stevens Rd., Portland, OR.

Admittance is free to the public. Thursday, October 14, Dr. Robert Schuller of the Hour of Power Television broadcast, au-

thor of over 25 books and Pastor of the Crystal Cathedral, Garden Grove, California will be the featured speaker. The 150 voice New Hope choir and orchestra will provide sacred and contemporary worship music.

Friday, October 15, 1999 The Maranatha Praise Band of Maranatha! Music and Promise Keepers Conferences will provide

a regional worship and praise event here in Portland titled "The Night of Worship." This event is designed to bring church bodies together in worship.

For more information call New Hope Community Church (503) 659-5683. Admission is free, seating is on a first come basis. Doors open at 5:45 p.m.

Obituaries

Frances Louise Walker

A funeral will be at 11 a.m. Wednesday, Sept. 15, 1999, in Mallory Avenue Church of Christ for Frances Louise Walker, who died Sept. 10 of cancer at age 61.

Mrs. Walker was born April 14, 1938, in Marshall, Texas. Her maiden name was Washington. She had lived in Portland since 1944. She was a financial adviser for the Portland Development Commission for about 15 years and then for the Portland Housing Center for about five years. She was a member of Piedmont Church of Christ. She married Robert Walker in 1964; he died in 1998.

Survivors, all of Portland, include her son, Robert Jr.; daughters, Kimberley Burrell and Angela Washington; mother, Bertha Mae Smith, and sisters, Wilma Brister and Martha Washington; and eight grandchildren.

Interment will be in Willamette National Cemetery. Arrangements are by Killingsworth Little Chapel of the Chimes.

Irene Crockett-Johnson

A funeral will be at 1 p.m. Monday, Sept. 13, 1999, in Morning Star Baptist Church for Irene Crockett-Johnson, who died Sept. 7 at age 66.

Mrs. Crockett-Johnson was born Dec. 22, 1932, in Tululah, La., and lived in the Portland area since 1943. Her maiden name was Crockett. She worked for Coast Janitorial for more than 10 years.

Survivors include her sons, Terry Payton, Randy Johnson, David Johnson and Densber Johnson Jr., all of Portland, and Richard Payton of Seattle; daughters, Francine Payton-Freeman, Cheryl Johnson and Phyllis Roper-Payton, all of Portland, and Debra Payton of Denver; 24 grandchildren; and 29 great-grandchildren.

Interment will be in Rose City Cemetery. Arrangements are by Killingsworth Little Chapel of the Chimes.

A Gospel Celebration

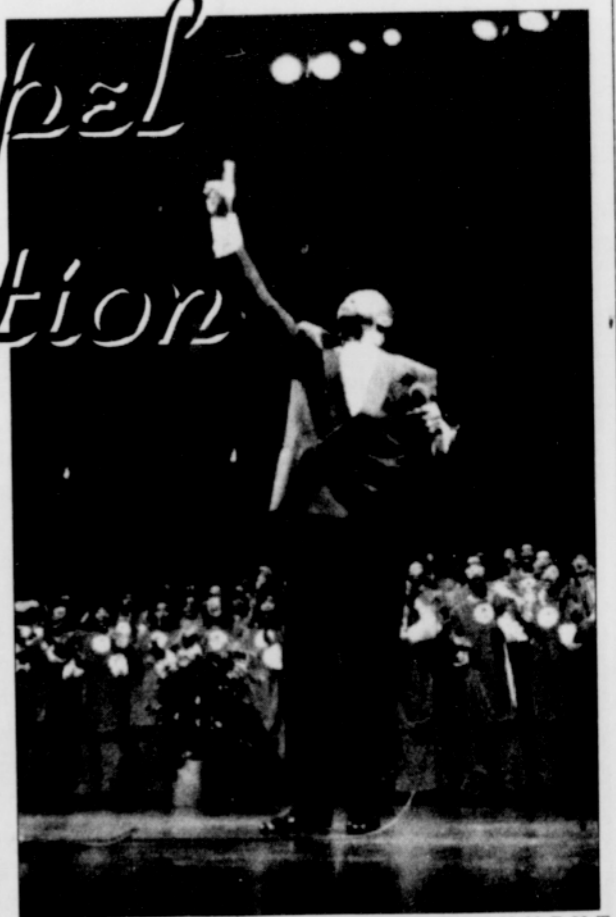
IN CONCERT
The Mississippi Mass Choir

With 6 Piece Band
Saturday, October 2 • 7:30 PM

Master of Ceremony - Ruben Warren
Opening the Show - MISS GRACE
New Beginnings Christian Center
7600 NE Glisan

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All Ticketmasters Outlets • 224-4400
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