

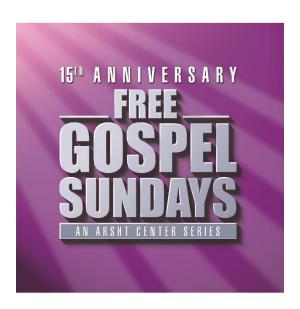
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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The Adrienne Arsht Center for the Performing Arts of Miami-Dade County announces the return of



FREE GOSPEL SUNDAYS

Celebrating 15 seasons of showcasing Miami's brightest gospel stars and nationally renowned gospel headliners with pop-up performances, an all-day Gospel Fest and more.

The 2023-2024 season kicks off with

SINGING IN THE STREETS

Free pop-up performances across Miami-Dade County
October 28, 2023

and features

TASHA PAGE-LOCKHART

Two-time Stellar Award winner and star of WE tv's Grown & Gospel October 29, 2023



BLIND BOYS OF ALABAMA CHRISTMAS SHOW

Five-time Grammy winners and living legends of gospel music December 17, 2023

15TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION: MUSIC FROM THE BOTTOM

Celebrate the 15th Anniversary of Free Gospel Sundays with a show curated and performed by local stars paying homage to the sounds of Miami

February 25, 2024

GOSPELFEST

Experience the Miami gospel sound with a community-wide choir made up of voices from church choirs from across Miami-Dade County April 21, 2024

Plus

WPLG Local 10's CALVIN HUGHES and BETTY DAVIS to co-host

Miami, FL – August 21, 2023 – The Adrienne Arsht Center for the Performing Arts of Miami-Dade County (@arshtcenter) is pleased to announce the return of FREE GOSPEL SUNDAYS for its 15th anniversary season. This marquee season features gospel music's biggest stars alongside Miami's brightest gospel talents, on the stage of the Knight Concert Hall and across Miami-Dade County. WPLG Local 10 Anchor CALVIN HUGHES (@calvinwplg) returns as host for the 2023-2024 season joined for the opening concert by WPLG Chief Meteorologist BETTY DAVIS (@bettydaviswplg).

Free passes for the first **FREE GOSPEL SUNDAYS** performance of the season, **TASHA PAGE-LOCKHART**, will be available beginning October 11 at noon at arshtcenter.org. Sign up for Arsht Center emails <u>here</u> and be sure to select "Community & Free Events" to be the first to know when passes for remaining performances become available.

FREE GOSPEL SUNDAYS is presented by the Arsht Center, with leadership support from Rodney and Michelle Adkins, as well as the generous support of Baptist Health South Florida; The Israel, Rose, Henry & Robert Wiener Charitable Foundation; and the Friends of Free Gospel Sundays.

The 15th Anniversary Season of **FREE GOSPEL SUNDAYS** kicks off with free pop-up performances taking place at the following locations on **Saturday**, **October 28 at 5 p.m.**:

<u>South Miami-Dade County:</u>
South Dade Black History Center



14508 Lincoln Blvd Miami, FL 33176

Central Miami-Dade County: Charles Hadley Park 1350 NW 50th Street Miami, FL 33142

North Miami-Dade County:

Betty T. Ferguson Recreational Complex
3000 NW 199th Street
Miami Gardens. FL 33056

The performances are free and open to the public. No reservations needed.

The 2023-2024 season of **FREE GOSPEL SUNDAYS** includes the following performances:

TASHA PAGE-LOCKHART October 29, 2023 at 5 p.m. Knight Concert Hall

Hailing from Detroit, **TASHA PAGE-LOCKHART** (@tashapagelockhart) is the Season 6 winner of Sunday Best, the BET network's hit gospel singing competition. A two-time Stellar Award winner, she is the star of WE tv's reality series Grown & Gospel and was also featured in Tyler Perry's Madea On The Run. Page-Lockhart is the daughter of award-winning gospel singer Lisa Page Brooks and granddaughter of Warren Harris, a founder of Motown group The Monitors.

BLIND BOYS OF ALABAMA CHRISTMAS SHOW December 17, 2023 at 5 p.m. Knight Concert Hall

Described as "James Brown does gospel," the **BLIND BOYS OF ALABAMA** (@blindboysofalabama) are recognized worldwide as living legends of gospel music. Celebrated by the National Endowment for the Arts and the Recording Academy with lifetime achievement awards, inducted into the Gospel Music Hall of Fame and having won five Grammy Awards, the Blind Boys have attained the highest levels of achievement in a career that spans over 70 years.

In The Christmas Show, the Blind Boys present holiday standards from their Grammy-winning 2004 album Go Tell It on the Mountain and from 2014's Talkin' Christmas. The holiday tour debuted in 2003 and has included soldout shows at prestigious venues such as Benaroya Hall in Seattle, Davies Symphony Hall in San Francisco and Walt Disney Concert Hall in Los Angeles.



Free passes for **BLIND BOYS OF ALABAMA CHRISTMAS SHOW** will be available beginning November 29, 2023.

FREE GOSPEL SUNDAYS 15^{TH} ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION: MUSIC FROM THE BOTTOM February 25, 2024 at 5 p.m. Knight Concert Hall

Celebrate the 15th anniversary of **FREE GOSPEL SUNDAYS** with Music From the Bottom, a show curated and performed by locally based stars paying homage to the Gospel sounds of Miami.

Free passes for FREE GOSPEL SUNDAYS 15TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION: MUSIC FROM THE **BOTTOM** will be available beginning February 7, 2024.

GOSPELFEST April 21, 2024 at 5 p.m. OFF CAMPUS: Little Haiti Cultural Center 212 NE 59th Terrace, Miami, FL 33137

Experience the sound of Miami gospel as singers from Miami-Dade County church choirs join together at the second annual **GOSPELFEST**, presented by the Arsht Center at the Little Haiti Cultural Center.

Free passes for GOSPELFEST will be available beginning April 3, 2024.

ABOUT THE ARSHT CENTER'S COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT PROGRAMS

FREE GOSPEL SUNDAYS is one of the 10 ongoing Arsht Center programs committed to community engagement and deepening the experience of the performing arts for all Miami-Dade County residents. Having served more than 120,000 people throughout its 17-year history, the programs broaden community participation and open the sights, sounds and possibilities of the world through the performing arts. Programs include: Broadway on Biscayne, free interactive pre- and post-show experiences connecting audiences more deeply with each show; Family Fest, a season of free performances featuring the world's leading family-friendly artists; Heritage Fest, an annual all-ages festival celebrating Black heritage; a Juneteenth Juke Joint party; AileyCamp Miami, a full-scholarship, six-week summer camp which uses dance as a vehicle for the personal development of young people; CommuniTea Dance, an annual celebration honoring Miami's LGBTQ+ community; Knight Masterworks Classical Conversations, a series of free lectures which give the audience insight into the musicians, composers and history of music presented in our Knight Masterworks Classical Music series; Arsht on the Road, a series of free pop-up performances that bring the arts into Miami-Dade County's diverse neighborhoods; and programs that marry arts and wellness, such as Accessing the Arts Residencies, art workshops for children and adults with disabilities; Veteran Voices, a program that offers military veterans in Miami-Dade opportunities to use poetry and spoken word as a tools for self-expression, and Art + Mind Day.

Adrienne Arsht Center



Image of Tasha Page-Lockhart – Photo courtesy artist management



Image of Blind Boys of Alabama –
Photo by Jim Herrington



Image of Rev. Melvin Dawson and the Genesis Fellowship Delegation – Photo courtesy artist management



Image of GospelFest 2023 at Little Haiti Cultural Center – Photo by Alex Markow

For high-res versions of the images above, click **here**.

@ArshtCenter

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*All programs, artists, ticket prices, availability, dates and times are subject to change without notice. Additional fees may apply. Visit arshtcenter.org_for up-to-date information.

The Adrienne Arsht Center for the Performing Arts of Miami-Dade County is made possible by the public support of the Miami-Dade County Mayor and the Board of County Commissioners, the Miami-Dade County Department of Cultural Affairs and the Cultural Affairs Council, the Miami-Dade County Tourist Development Council and the City of Miami Omni Community Redevelopment Agency, as well as the State of Florida, Department of State, Division of Arts and Culture and the Florida Council on Arts and Culture. The Adrienne Arsht Center also receives generous support from individuals, corporations and local, state and national foundations.



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AboutUs

Set in the heart of downtown Miami, the Adrienne Arsht Center for the Performing Arts of Miami-Dade County is committed to welcoming and connecting ALL people to the arts, to the Arsht Center and to each other. Our stages are alive year-round with artists from around the world, innovative programming from our resident companies and local arts partners, free community events that reflect Miami's unique identity and arts education experiences for thousands of Miami children each year.

Since opening in 2006, the Arsht Center, a 501C3 non-profit organization, has been recognized as a catalyst for billions of dollars in new development in the downtown area, a leader in programming that mirrors South Florida's diversity, a host venue for historic events and Miami's hub for arts education.

Each year, we serve more than 60,000 young learners and offer more than 100 culturally diverse and inclusive education programs — many enhanced by the Arsht Center's relationship with Miami-Dade County Public Schools, local teaching artists and Miami-based arts organizations.

The Arsht Center is also a home stage for three resident companies — Florida Grand Opera, Miami City Ballet and New World Symphony — and a launch pad for local artists to make their mark on the international stage. Our 300+ events each year include the Center's Signature Series of classical, jazz, Broadway, local theater and much more. We present a robust series of touring Broadway musicals direct from New York, the largest jazz series in South Florida, a major annual Flamenco Festival and an award-winning Miami-based theater program. In addition, our Family Fest, Free Gospel Sundays, CommuniTEA LGBTQ+ celebration and Heritage Fest are among dozens of free events that bring together people from all corners of our community. For more information, visit arshtcenter.org.