

Adrienne Arsht Center

FOR THE PERFORMING ARTS OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY

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**
AN ARSHT CENTER SERIES

**The Arsht Center's beloved signature series expands to include free
pop-up performances throughout Miami-Dade County and the first-
ever Gospel Fest!**

JEKALYN CARR

**Grammy, Stellar and Dove Award winner
October 9, 2022**

SOWETO GOSPEL CHOIR

**Three-time Grammy Award winners celebrate the holidays with their
powerful blend of African gospel, freedom songs and international
classics
December 18, 2022**

PASTOR MARC COOPER & THE MIAMI MASS CHOIR

**Free Gospel Sunday's longtime resident ensemble takes center stage
to close out Black History Month
February 26, 2023**

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FOR THE PERFORMING ARTS OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY

GOSPEL FEST

A daylong, free celebration of gospel music at the Little Haiti Cultural Center
March 26, 2023

plus
WPLG Local 10 Anchor
CALVIN HUGHES
returns as host

Miami, FL – September 6, 2022 – 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 16th season. In addition to featuring gospel music's brightest stars on the Center's Knight Concert Hall stage, this season of **FREE GOSPEL SUNDAYS** will also bring South Florida's best gospel acts to the streets with free pop-up shows across Miami-Dade County as well as the first-ever Gospel Fest at the Little Haiti Cultural Center. WPLG Local 10 Anchor **CALVIN HUGHES** ([@calvinwplg](#)) returns as host for the 2022-2023 season.

Free tickets for the first **FREE GOSPEL SUNDAYS** performance of the season will be available beginning September 9 at noon at [arshtcenter.org](#). Sign up for Arsht Center emails [here](#) and be sure to select "Community & Free Events" to be the first to know when passes for remaining performances become available.

To kick off the new season, the Arsht Center invites the community to **Singing in the Streets** celebrations on **Saturday, October 8 at 5 p.m.** at the following locations:

Historic Mt. Zion Missionary Baptist Church
301 NW 9th Street, Miami, FL 33136

Featuring Florida Memorial University Ambassador Chorale

As ambassadors for Florida Memorial University, the **FMU Ambassador Chorale** ([@fmuambassadorchoral](#)) has upward of 50 members that perform a wide range of music and experiment with a variety of musical genres. Most recently, they performed with New World Symphony and renowned soprano Michelle Bradley.

Miami Gardens City Hall
18605 NW 27 Avenue
Miami Gardens, FL 33056

Featuring the Florida Fellowship Super Choir

Adrienne Arsht Center

FOR THE PERFORMING ARTS OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY

The **Florida Fellowship Super Choir** ([@f2superchoir](#)) is made up of singers, songwriters, directors and musicians of all faiths and denominations from across the state of Florida.

The 2022-2023 season of **FREE GOSPEL SUNDAYS** includes the following performances:

JEKALYN CARR

Featuring opening act Florida Memorial University Ambassador Chorale

Sunday, October 9, 2022 at 5 p.m.

Knight Concert Hall

JEKALYN CARR ([@jekalyncarr](#)) is a Grammy Award nominee and Stellar and GMA Dove Award-winning recording artist. She is a profound speaker, radio and conference host, entrepreneur, actress and author. She has spent nearly a decade at the top of the gospel music charts. As a top-selling independent recording artist, Carr earned several Billboard No. 1s before the age of 21, including her hit singles "You're Bigger" and "You Will Win." She burst onto the scene at 15 with incomparable vocals and a wisdom well beyond her years in her breakout single "Greater Is Coming."

Carr made her television acting debut with a featured role on the OWN Television Network series *Greenleaf* and expanded her acting experience in the feature film *Never Heard*.

Admission to **FREE GOSPEL SUNDAYS: JEKALYN CARR** is free, however, first-access passes* are required. First-access passes will be available starting September 9 at noon.

SOWETO GOSPEL CHOIR: HOPE – IT'S BEEN A LONG TIME COMING

Featuring opening act Florida Fellowship Super Choir

Sunday, December 18, 2022 at 5 p.m.

Knight Concert Hall

Out of the darkness comes a new dawn. This all-new concert by three-time Grammy-winning **SOWETO GOSPEL CHOIR** ([@sowetogospelchoirlive](#)) commemorates South Africa's Freedom Movement and the civil rights movement in the United States. Bringing joy to all, *HOPE* opens with a rousing program of South African freedom songs that inspired their Rainbow Nation. Then, the choir's uplifting performance moves to the United States with beautiful renditions of the music of the civil rights movement, including works by legendary artists **Billie Holiday, James Brown, Otis Redding, Curtis Mayfield** and the one-and-only **Aretha Franklin**.

Joined by opening act **Florida Fellowship Super Choir**, this performance will also include holiday-themed gospel favorites to spread the joy of the season.

Admission to **FREE GOSPEL SUNDAYS: SOWETO GOSPEL CHOIR** is free, however, first-access passes* are required. First-access passes will be available starting November 17, 2022.

Adrienne Arsht Center

FOR THE PERFORMING ARTS OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY

PASTOR MARC COOPER & THE MIAMI MASS CHOIR

Sunday, February 26, 2023 at 5 p.m.

Knight Concert Hall

Pastor of Upper Room Ministries in Miami Gardens, **Marc Cooper** ([@pmc_305](#)) has been playing music since childhood. In 1995, he co-founded the Stellar Award-winning **Miami Mass Choir** ([@miamimasschoir](#)), the longtime resident ensemble for **FREE GOSPEL SUNDAYS**. That same year, the original Marc Cooper & Friends released *Glory, Glory*, an album of high-powered, joy-filled gospel songs, many written by Cooper. Since then, he has founded his own record label and released several critically acclaimed recordings with Miami Mass Choir, including their album *Miami Mass Choir Live at the Adrienne Arsht Center*, which was recorded in 2016.

The choir were the recipients of the 2017 Artist of the Year, Album of the Year and Large Choir of the Year at the Kingdom Image Awards, which honor local gospel acts making an impact within their communities.

Admission to **FREE GOSPEL SUNDAYS: PASTOR MARC COOPER & MIAMI MASS CHOIR** is free, however, first-access passes* are required. First-access passes will be available starting January 27, 2023.

GOSPEL FEST

Sunday, March 26, 2023 at 2 p.m.

OFF CAMPUS: Little Haiti Cultural Center

212 NE 59 Terrace, Miami, FL 33137

FREE GOSPEL SUNDAYS' inaugural **GospelFest** will offer a free, daylong celebration of gospel music for the whole community at the Little Haiti Cultural Center. More details to be announced soon!

An additional **FREE GOSPEL SUNDAYS** performance is scheduled for April 2023. Sign up [here](#) to be the first to know when more information is available.

FREE GOSPEL SUNDAYS is made possible with the leadership support of Rodney and Michelle Adkins, as well as the generous support of the Green Family Foundation Trust, Baptist Health South Florida, The Israel, Rose, Henry and Robert Wiener Charitable Foundation, the Friends of Free Gospel Sundays, 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 State of Florida, Department of State, Division of Arts and Culture and the Florida Council on Arts and Culture.

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 105,000 people throughout its

Adrienne Arsht Center

FOR THE PERFORMING ARTS OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY

16-year history, the programs broaden community participation and open the sights, sounds and possibilities of the world through the performing arts. New programs include: **Broadway on Biscayne**, a series of pre-and post- performance experiences giving audiences a closer look at the shows; and **Club Broadway** which brings together a cohort of teen Broadway enthusiasts for shows and workshops. Existing programs include: [Family Fest](#), a season of free performances featuring the world's leading family-friendly artists; [The Heritage Project](#), a free salon series and annual festival featuring panel discussions surrounding performing arts and social justice in the Black community; [AileyCamp Miami](#), a full-scholarship, six-week summer dance 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; [Accessing the Arts Residencies](#), art workshops for children and adults with disabilities; and [Arsht on the Road](#), a series of free pop-up performances that bring the arts into Miami-Dade County's diverse neighborhoods.



Image of Jekalyn Carr – Photo courtesy artist management



Image of Soweto Gospel Choir – Photo by Henry Engelbrecht



Image of Pastor Marc Cooper and Miami Mass Choir – Photo by Justin Namon, ra-haus



Image of Miami Mass Choir at the North Beach Bandshell in 2021 – Photo by Eyeworks Production

To download high-resolutions versions of the photos above, click [here](#).

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Adrienne Arsht Center

FOR THE PERFORMING ARTS OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY

*All programs, artists, ticket prices, availability, dates and times are subject to change without notice. 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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About Us

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.