



MEDIA ALERT

For Immediate Release: January 30, 2024
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WSRE PBS to offer free preview screening of “GOSPEL” with local choir performances

New Henry Louis Gates Jr. documentary explores Black spirituality in sermon and song

GOSPEL

HOSTED BY HENRY LOUIS GATES JR.

WHO: Presented locally by WSRE PBS and featuring performances by the Zion Hope Primitive Baptist Church Choir and the Voices of Victory Radio Choir.

WHAT: A half-hour sneak peek of the new documentary series GOSPEL—from executive producer, host and writer Henry Louis Gates Jr.—presented with performances by two local choirs: the Zion Hope Primitive Baptist Church Choir and the Voices of Victory Radio Choir. “GOSPEL” explores the rich history of Black spirituality through sermon and song. The four-hour documentary series digs deep into the origin story of Gospel music, coming out of slavery, blending with the Blues tradition, and soaring to new heights during the Great Migration. From Mahalia Jackson to Kirk Franklin, in the last century, Gospel has become the dominant form of African American religious expression and has provided a soundtrack of healing and uplift to those at the front lines of protest and change. Gates, the Alphonse Fletcher University Professor at Harvard University and director of the Hutchins Center for African and African American Research, speaks with dozens of clergymen, singers, and scholars about their connection to the music that has transcended Gospel’s origins and now spreads “the good word” all around the world. The series features interviews with notable names including Dionne Warwick, U.S. Senator Raphael Warnock, Rev. Otis Moss III, Professor Michael Eric Dyson, and awe-inspiring musical performances of Gospel favorites “Can’t Nobody Do Me Like Jesus,” “Total Praise” and others from talents including The Belle Singers, Cory Henry, Celisse and more. “GOSPEL” premieres on PBS February 12.

WHEN: 7 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 6

WHERE: WSRE Jean & Paul Amos Performance Studio at Pensacola State College

WHY: To engage the local community in the PBS release of “GOSPEL”—the new documentary series from Henry Louis Gates Jr.—in observance of Black History Month.

HOW: Admission is free. Seating is limited, so reservations are requested at wsre.org/events.

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