

Adrienne Arsht Center

for the Performing Arts of Miami-Dade County



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**ANNOUNCING
FREE GOSPEL SUNDAYS AT THE ARSHT CENTER
– A MUSICAL CELEBRATION WITH GOSPEL AM1490 WMBM**

**Inaugural Concert February 24 @ 4 p.m.
Knight Concert Hall**

MIAMI, FL February 5, 2008 – Adrienne Arsht Center for the Performing Arts of Miami-Dade County announced today a thrilling new ongoing partnership with Gospel AM1490 WMBM to host **FREE GOSPEL SUNDAYS AT THE ARSHT CENTER**, a year-round series of FREE monthly Gospel concerts in the Center’s acoustically superb John S. and James L. Knight Concert Hall. All performances are free and open to the public.

“This new free Gospel series represents another major step toward fulfilling the Center’s commitment to offer all segments of the community access to a world-class facility and quality live entertainment. It is particularly meaningful that we were able to partner on this new initiative with an organization like WMBM that shares the Center’s dedication to serving the people of South Florida,” said Lawrence Wilker, interim president and CEO of The Arsht Center.

“WMBM is honored to have a new partner eager to embrace the Gospel community. Gospel music has played an integral role in history. Together, we look forward to bringing all genres of South Florida’s best and brightest Gospel artists to the Arsht Center for the entire community to enjoy,” said Bishop Victor T. Curry, president and general manager of Gospel AM1490 WMBM and host of Morning Glory and Tuesday Talk.

The series launches on Sunday, February 24 – as part of the Center’s Black History Month festivities – with a spectacular afternoon of Gospel music featuring nearly 200 performers, including national recording artist Johnny Sanders, the Florida Memorial University Gospel Choir, Pastor Avery Jones and the Avery Jones Singers, and New Jerusalem Primitive Baptist Church Choir.

“The lineup for Free Gospel Sundays represents Miami’s spectacular pool of talent and I am very happy to see that the first concert showcases many performers from my district,” said Miami-Dade County District 2 Commissioner Dorrin D. Rolle.

“I commend the Center on this new initiative and the involvement of the Florida Memorial University Gospel Choir. I urge more choirs and gospel performers from my district and all over the community to participate in this series,” said Miami-Dade County Vice Chairwoman Barbara J. Jordan.

Free Gospel Sundays performances have been scheduled for March 30, April 27 and May 25 and will include groups affiliated with churches throughout Miami-Dade County. The lineup for each upcoming performance will be announced as details become available. The series will then continue in Fall 2008 with year-round monthly performances. Church groups and choirs interested in participating are invited to contact Debra Toomer, WMBM Director of Marketing, at (305) 769-1100 or via email at dtoomer@wmbm.com.

TICKET RESERVATIONS

Admission is FREE. Free tickets can be reserved in advance through the Arsht Center box office at (305) 949-6722 or online at www.arshtcenter.org. Tickets will also be available on performance days in the Knight Concert Hall starting at 12pm, subject to availability.

The Arsht Center is made possible by the public support of the Miami-Dade County Mayor and the Board of County Commissioners . The Center also receives generous support from private and corporate contributions to the Performing Arts Center Foundation of Greater Miami, and additional public support from City of Miami Omni Community Redevelopment Agency and the State of Florida, Department of State, Division of Cultural Affairs, the Florida Arts Council, and the National Endowment for the Arts.

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Editor’s Note:

Related high-resolution photos are available by request.

About Adrienne Arsht Center for Performing Arts of Miami-Dade County

Adrienne Arsht Center for Performing Arts of Miami-Dade County is Miami-Dade County's largest ever public/private-sector partnership, comprised of an \$150 million private capital campaign conducted by the Performing Arts Center Foundation and public funding drawn primarily from the County's Convention Development Tax revenues, as well as the City of Miami Omni Redevelopment District Community Redevelopment Agency. Greatly enhancing the artistic and educational opportunities in South Florida, The Arsht Center also will have significant and long-term economic benefits for the city and the region.

The Arsht Center, designed by world-renowned architect Cesar Pelli of Pelli Clarke Pelli Architects, includes the 2,400-seat Sanford and Dolores Ziff Ballet Opera House, the 2,200-seat Knight Concert Hall, a 200-seat black box Carnival Studio Theater, the Peacock Education Center, a restored Art Deco Tower, and the Parker and Vann Thomson Plaza for the Arts, which unites the Center buildings across Biscayne Boulevard, providing a magnificent setting for outdoor entertainment and informal gatherings. The key members of the design team include theater planning and design consultant Joshua Dachs of Fisher Dachs Associates, Inc. and acoustician Russell Johnson of ARTEC, Inc., both of whom worked on the project since its inception.

The Arsht Center is a Miami venue not only for its four resident companies (Concert Association of Florida, Florida Grand Opera, Miami City Ballet, and New World Symphony), but also for many smaller South Florida arts organizations that will perform in its theaters on a regular basis, as well as for the finest popular and classical performances from around the world. With state-of-the-art performance facilities in Miami for the first time, The Arsht Center offers South Florida audiences the best and most diverse theater, music, and dance—with a dedication to entertain, challenge, and educate all segments of the community. For more information, visit www.arshtcenter.org.

About AM1490 WMBM

AM1490 WMBM, a media pillar in the community, serves South Florida and the world via the Internet with up-to-the minute news, empowering talk shows, all genres of inspirational, edifying and encouraging gospel music, rap and spoken word and so much more. Since the 1995 purchase of AM1490 WMBM by New Birth Broadcasting Corporation, (NBBC), under the leadership of Bishop Victor T. Curry, President/GM, the landscape of Gospel Radio has changed. With a coverage map of over 1,500,000 homes and businesses, WMBM is one of the first radio stations to stream its broadcast via the Internet.

WMBM has been featured in *Ebony Magazine*, *Inside Gospel*, *Gospel Today*, *Gospel USA*, *Saved Magazine*, and more. Rated the number one traditional gospel station in the nation by the religious and media quarterly publications, WMBM has received national and international recognition through correspondence and communication via the internet. Most recently, WMBM received the highest honor in the gospel industry as the prestigious 2007 stellar award radio station of the year in a large market.

For more information regarding Gospel AM1490WMBM, call 305.769.1100 or logon to www.wmbm.com.