



THE GOSPEL XPERIENCE

YOU'LL NEVER BE THE SAME

PERSPECTIVES

by David M. Wallace

INTRO

Gospel music is known for its strong rhythms and elaborated refrains, which incorporate elements of spirituals, blues, and jazz. Even though it may be hard to find in music stores and not given enough outlets on mainstream television, Gospel Music has a very deep and rich history. This American art form influences almost all genres, from R&B to Rock 'n' Roll. Many musical legends like Aretha Franklin, Sam Cooke, and James Brown, have roots in this genre.

In the first half of the 20th century Gospel was developed as a musical genre in America. Known as "the father of gospel music", Thomas Dorsey wrote "Take My Hand, Precious Lord" in 1930. This is one of the most frequently recorded Gospel hymns in history. His powerful combination of sacred and secular styles created a revolution in music. Thomas Dorsey took the Gospel sound from churches into the marketplace. A new genre was born that would change the face of the industry.

The Gospel Xperience is a documentary based on the evolution of Gospel Music and the impact it has in the World today. In undertaking this task I wanted to lay a foundation for this documentary as I began the pre-production phase. In my travels to different events in the industry we interviewed artists to get their insight. I truly want to thank Bishop Leonard Scott, Marvin Sapp, Hezekiah Walker, Pastor Debra B. Morton, Sean Slaughter, Pastor Harold Rayford, Ami Rushes for their contributions. I would also like to give a special shout-out and thanks to my friend Darryl D. Lassiter for helping arrange a majority of the interviews.

After finishing the interviews I began to realize how special this could be, so I'm sharing these interviews. I'm believing God for great things for this production and looking forward to filming in 2010, so without further ado we are very proud to present The Gospel Xperience: Perspectives.

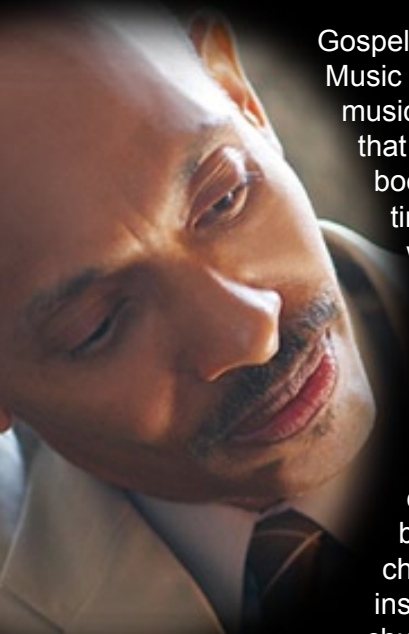


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BISHOP LEONARD SCOTT



Gospel music of course is constantly evolving. It is very interesting that the Father of Gospel Music Thomas Dorsey back in the early 1900's was ridiculed for his music and now today his music is basically traditional, back then it was considered very cutting edge and that's the way that it goes. In a hundred years what Kirk Franklin is doing will probably be in your hymn books. That is just the way music is, it lines up with a certain culture, a certain era, a certain time, a certain people. I remember having a conversation with my dad years ago before I was in church, I was telling him (this was back in the 60's) how great the Beatles were, he was telling me you know Duke Ellington was the man. So you just had two era's here, I couldn't relate to Duke Ellington because he was before my time and he couldn't relate to the Beatles because they were after his time. The music that we are doing today is cutting edge. A hundred years from now they will be the hymns of that era and they will be doing something else that all of the seniors will say is blasphemy and then it will be the same cycle a hundred years from then. I have seen music go from what we consider very traditional and some of the things we are doing today that would not have been accepted years ago. I remember when I first got in church, it was only the pentecostal church that might have had a set of drums in there and now just about every church that has instruments has drums. Before I was in church I played the saxophone and when I got in church, you know the saxophone was the devil's instrument, it was for the night club. I picked up the guitar then but it wasn't really accepted, but today you know almost any instrument is accepted in church. I really don't believe the devil has an instrument and I really don't believe there is a holy instrument, a instrument is a instrument it is neither sinful or holy, it's got to do with the person that's playing it, what makes it sinful or holy. Of course this day we've seen the evolution of what we call Praise and Worship music which has added a new twist to Gospel Music. Praise and Worship is kind of something that is on both sides of the fence. On the black side you have what is called Gospel and on the white side you have what is called Christian and straight down the middle you have Praise and Worship, it is accepted by everybody, which is a good thing and where it is going from here who knows, I guess time will tell.



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MARVIN SAPP

I have been in this industry now for 20 years, when I started we were doing LP's, we shifted from LP's to cassette to now we are doing CD's. When I started in this industry in a group called Commission, we were urban contemporary and we were ostracized. Articles have been written about us in a negative fashion but we have paved the way for a lot of artists now.



HEZEKIAH WALKER

My take on Gospel music is that it has really hit mainstream and that has been my prayer for the past 25 years in my ministry. I have been really trying to make an impact on the community at large to let everyone know that our music is alive and well, because Jesus is alive and well. I believe it has gotten to the place that the secular artist may not like our message, but they have to recognize our talent. I think that the church has been hidden for so long and it is now time for us to come to the forefront. I am a choir man and not only that, I am a lover of church. I believe that everyone should be dedicated to their church. A lot of times the ones who are dedicated to their church are not recognized.



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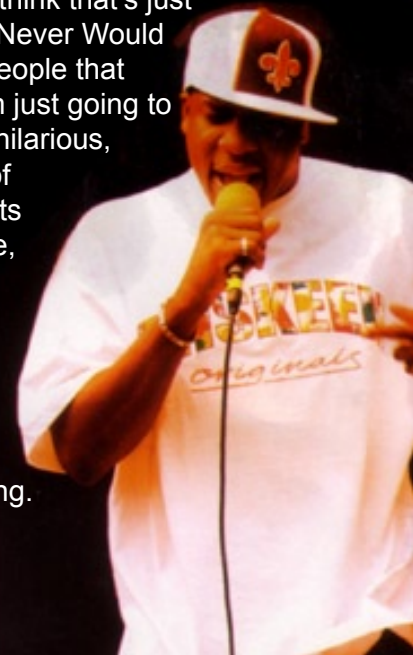


PASTOR DEBRA B. MORTON

I think Gospel music if it comes from God that it can be a great witnessing tool as a sermon and because music is universal sometimes it can go places that we can't. Gospel music can be very powerful and even the fact that they are playing some of the songs on secular stations I think that's a tremendous blessing because we keep preaching to the church, so I think when it crosses over and it is of God it is good that the music can be very powerful to change lives.

SEAN SLAUGHTER

I think when anything begins to increase and get bigger there are 2 possibilities, there is a possible for greatness and there's a possibility for misuse and abuse and I think that's just the nature of things getting big. Gospel music now, I mean Marvin Sapp's "Never Would Have Made It" went gold and so as gospel grows I think you'll have more people that might become fans of the music and some will get saved, some will not. I'm just going to keep it real, you have someone like Steve Harvey whose morning show is hilarious, but he'll do a little Christian segment for the first ten minutes then the rest of it is all him. I think that is some of the dangers because as it gets global in its effort to reach everybody, it can compromise sometimes. On a positive note, the bigger Gospel music gets the more the Word gets out and the more people hear it, the faster the Lord will come back. Jesus even said the wheat has to grow with the tares, so I don't think that we can say Gospel music has to stay small, people will be people. The people that it doesn't affect at least they heard it and now they are responsible for it and that is all we can do. We have to be good stewards of planting and sewing and hopefully God will give the increase. So Gospel Music keep doing your thang.





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PASTOR HAROLD RAYFORD

I believe that Gospel Music has evolved and has become more relevant, it is more accepted today than it has ever been before. When I grew up the only people that could relate to Gospel Music were folk that went to church, it had not reached outside the four walls of the church. Thanks to people like the Hawkins family, Andre Crouch, the Clark Sisters and most notably the Winans, the door was opened up for people like Kirk Franklin who just knocked the door down. Now Gospel Music is accepted, it's acceptable to play and to talk about ones love for Gospel Music. I think it is a wonderful tool now for us to witness as the world begins to embrace our music. There was a time we were trying to knock them over the head with the message, but now we can give them our music and hopefully the message is in the music.

AMI RUSHES

I think Gospel music is more visible now. Years and years ago, back in Rev. James Cleveland's day, Gospel music wasn't quite as visible. I think there is more media for us now than ever before. We did not have television, radio, magazine and internet years ago. Now a person can produce a record and even if they don't have a record company they can sell their products online now, so that's awesome. Gospel Music reaches the whole world and there's no barriers stopping us now, maybe there was at one time and is it needed? Oh my God it's needed more today than ever ever before, look at the times that we are living in. We need God, we need hope, we need to know that we will make it through this, we need peace and we need Jesus so very much. Thank God now that we have the avenue to reach the world.





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ABOUT DAVID M. WALLACE

Writer, Producer, Musician and Graphic artist, David M. Wallace is Founder and President of Total Prayze Entertainment Group. Under his direction this company has catapulted into one of the fastest growing Gospel entertainment companies in the world standing behind its motto: Strive For Excellence.

Total Prayze Entertainment Group consists of 4 divisions:

Encore Gospel Entertainment Magazine

Total Eclipse Productions

Creative Dimension Studio

KingdomWorks Software

Copyright 2009. The Gospel Xperience is in pre-production and is slated to begin filming in 2010. Investors and sponsors can contact us at dve@totalprayze.com