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Gaither Vocal Band to perform with Orchestra Kentucky

By JACKSON FRENCH jfrench@bgdailynews.com 20 hrs ago



The Salvation Army and Orchestra Kentucky are joining forces to bring the Gaither Vocal Band to Bowling Green.

The acclaimed contemporary gospel group will perform with Orchestra Kentucky at the Southern Kentucky Performing Arts Center on March 16 as a kickoff event for the Salvation Army of Bowling Green's Annual Campaign.

Jeff Reed, music director for Orchestra Kentucky, announced the upcoming concert at a news conference Tuesday. He said Bill Gaither, the band's leader, is widely celebrated within the gospel music community, having garnered numerous Grammy and Dove awards and composing hundreds of songs that are sung in churches across the country.

"Bill Gaither and his wife, Gloria, are the composers of over 700 gospel songs including the classics 'Because He Lives', 'The King is Coming', 'He Touched Me' and ... 'There's Something About That Name,' " he said.

According to Reed, the show will be the first time the Gaither Vocal Band has performed with an orchestra.

Reed said the concert will also feature a special appearance from Larnelle Harris, a Western Kentucky University graduate and a Grammy-winning gospel singer who was once a member of the Gaither Vocal Band.

Tickets sell for \$50 and are available now at theskypac.com or by calling Orchestra Kentucky at 270-846-2626 or the SKyPAC box office at 270-904-1880. The concert is scheduled to begin at 7:30 p.m.

Reed said he's excited to work directly with a legend of the gospel scene.

"The Gaither Vocal Band, I thought, would be a perfect group to come to Bowling Green," he said. "Their music is fundamental in church hymnals."

Maj. Stephen Story with the Salvation Army said he can't say much yet about the annual campaign, a significant yearly fundraiser, because it is still being planned.



Story said the Gaither Vocal Band concert will raise awareness of what the Salvation Army does locally because the band is so well known in the community.

“The Gaithers have been around for so long, that they have that familiarity,” he said. “They kind of have that feeling that you’re home. I don’t know if nostalgia is the right word, but there is a lot of positive feelings with that.”

Jim Johnson, a member of the boards of both the Salvation Army and Orchestra Kentucky, was credited at the news conference with making the event possible by facilitating coordination between the two agencies.

“It’s a win-win. It’s going to be beneficial to SKyPAC, beneficial to Orchestra Kentucky, (a) tremendous benefit to Salvation Army and I think a real benefit to the community,” he said. “(The Gaithers) have a very strong following in this community.”



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