

The Renaissance Foundation presents "A New Generation Preserving Gospel Heritage"

Written by Staff Writer

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Columbia, SC - On September 22, 2013, Rev. Shirley Ceasar will be the guest artist for the Renaissance Foundation Second Annual Gospel Heritage Festival. The purpose of the Gospel Heritage Festival Awards is to honor gospel pioneers of the Midlands and surrounding communities who continue to preserve the rich legacy of gospel music and provide a platform to showcase the talent of college gospel choirs. The Gospel Festival will be held at Koger Center of the Arts.

Our guest artist is the Rev. Shirley Ceasar, "First Lady of Gospel Music" and now "Queen of Gospel". She has traveled the world spreading the Gospel and breaking down barriers for Gospel artists. Rev. Ceasar started out in the early 60's singing with the group The Caravans, and became a solo artist in 1966. She has sung for Presidents and world leaders, while also pastoring to a thriving church in Raleigh-Durham, North Carolina. She has won or received 11 Grammy Awards, 13 Stellar Awards, 18 Doves, an RIAA gold certification, an Essence Award, McDonald's Golden Circle Lifetime Achievement Award, NAACP Achievement Award, SESAC Lifetime Achievement Award and is an inductee into the Gospel Music Hall of Fame

The Award Recipients are: Trailblazer Alex Snipe, Gospel Legacy Robin Jackson, Carolyn Cleveland, Edna Pough, Linda Kerkshaw, Helen Minor and Alicia Graham, Impact Darryl Izzard and Memorial Mr. Ethel Taylor and Mrs. Margaret Thornton. A special tribute performance for this event will be a mass choir of the Midland's College and Universities to honor our gospel legends.

Tickets for the Gospel Heritage Festival Awards can be purchased at the Koger Center Ticket Office (803-251-2222), online at www.capitoltickets.com or by calling The Renaissance

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Foundation at (803-733-5634). Adult Tickets @35.00, 27.50, and \$20.00 Student Tickets\$15.00 with student ID. The proceeds from this event will go towards the transformation of Historic Bethel into a Cultural Arts Center and Arts-in-Education/Edu-History Program.