

## Hallelujah Singers & USC Gospel Choir to Kickoff 2012 Palmetto City Classic

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The 2012 Palmetto City Classic will be launched with a Gospelfest on Sunday, September 9 at 6:00 p.m., at Saint John Baptist Church, which is located at 3404 West Beltline Avenue.

This year's Palmetto City Classic will be launched with a Gospelfest, featuring Marlena Smalls and the Hallelujah Singers, USC Gospel Choir, Men of Praise, and the Saint John Baptist Church Men's Choir. Marlena Smalls and The Hallelujah Singers have entertained and inspired audiences worldwide with their spiritual and blues performances, including music and narration celebrating and preserving the West African heritage, which shaped today's Gullah culture.

In its 4th semester of existence, the USC Gospel Choir affords University of South Carolina students (and resident of the Midland's Community) the opportunity to earn an hour of elective credit while exploring the diverse history, soul, and sounds of gospel music. The class emphasizes gospel as a means of practicing vocal pedagogy, but also helps students understand the historical and sociological significance of gospel music in African-American culture, its connection to other forms of music, and its functional purpose.

Also appearing on program are Men of Praise and the Saint John Men's Choir. Rev. (Dr.) Jamey Graham is the pastor of St. John Baptist Church. The concert, which begins at 6:00 p.m., is free and open to the public.