

## PRESS RELEASE

Friday, 16<sup>th</sup> September

### Dublin International Gospel Music Festival to Return to Dublin

The Dublin International Gospel Music Festival will return to Dublin after a successful run last year. The day-long festival will take place on **Saturday, 24 September** in **Liberty Hall Theatre, Eden Quay Dublin 1**. A series of free workshops will take place throughout the day, followed by an evening of performances.

The festival's programme aims to promote intercultural understanding through music and will feature as part of the Dublin City Council's 2011 'One City One People Initiative'.

Speaking ahead of the Gospel Music Festival, Chinedu Onyejelem, editor of the multi-cultural newspaper, Metro Éireann, which is presenting the festival, said that the event would offer a mix of music, dance and cultural workshops.

"We have expanded our programme for this year's event and we have a range of workshops on offer for anyone with an interest in gospel music, including a workshop on digital music production, singing and voice training, and a workshop on how to market and promote gospel music in Ireland.

"We also have some fantastic musical performances planned for next week's event, including shows by hip-hop artist, Zanillya Farrell, the daughter of the late Bobby Farrell, who rose to fame with the 1970's disco group Boney M; British singer / songwriter Muyiwa, whose gospel music features influences of rock, Nigerian rhythms, soul and Native American beats, and a performance by the Redeemed Christian Church of God Praise Choir.

"We are organising the festival to recognise the diversity of music in Ireland today, and to strengthen intercultural ties through showcasing music from different parts of the world. It offers a great opportunity for music lovers to come together for an evening of spectacular shows and energising performances", said Mr. Onyejelem.

Also commenting ahead of the Gospel Music Festival was the United States Ambassador to Ireland, Daniel M. Rooney: "The U.S. Embassy strongly supports cultural programming and is pleased that Metro Eireann is organising the Second Annual Gospel Festival. Gospel music is a very important tradition in American music".

Highlights of the festival programme include:

#### Music

- **Muyiwa**  
British Singer/songwriter whose dramatic mix of gospel music features influences of rock, Nigerian rhythms, soul and Native American beats.
- **The Dublin Gospel Choir**  
Ireland's most successful gospel musicians.
- **Zanillya Farrell**  
Hip-hop artist and daughter of Bobby Farrell from the group Boney M.
- **The Redeemed Christian Church of God Praise Choir**  
A dynamic praise group that will ignite the soul.
- **Adeniyi Allen-Taylor**  
Popularly known as 'Allen', a multi-talented musician and songwriter skilled in playing the keyboard, drums, guitar, and saxophone.

#### Workshops

- **Singing and Voice training**  
Gain vital tips and tools on singing, voice training and looking after your voice.
- **Digital Music production**

Professionals take you through a digital music production.

- **Online Marketing and Promotion for Gospel Musicians**

Widen your horizon. Be heard; get your music out there. Learn how to promote and market music online.

- **Faith, Race and Integration**

Exploring the role Faith and Race can play in the integration of different cultures... All for the right reasons!

- **Choreography**

Get some practical dance instructions on getting the right moves with your music.

Concert tickets are priced at €20 for single adults, €10 for children under 16, and a special offer for families of €50 for two adults and two children. Tickets are now on sale on [www.tickets.ie](http://www.tickets.ie). All workshops are open free of charge to members of the public. To register for any of the workshops, please email: [gospelmusic@metroeireann.com](mailto:gospelmusic@metroeireann.com) or telephone: 01 878 3441.

The Dublin International Gospel Music Festival is an initiative of Metro Éireann, Ireland's first multicultural newspaper. The Festival is also supported by the US Embassy Dublin; Dublin Bus Community Support Programme; The Irish Times; Jaipur, MK Design Studio, DHR Communications, and Dublin City Council's Office for Integration.

Further details of the festival's programme and volunteer opportunities are available at: [www.dublingospelmusicfestival.com](http://www.dublingospelmusicfestival.com) or by calling 01 8783441 / 086 852 3397. Please note that the evening performance will begin at 7pm (doors open 6.20pm).

**ENDS**

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