

Invitation to the International Festival of African-American Spirituals

Press Release:

SPIRITUAL FEST 2010

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We are pleased to invite you to two-day INTERNATIONAL FESTIVAL of African-American Spirituals called SPIRITUAL FEST 2010 held in Prague, Czech Republic on:

- 18 September, 2010 in St. Procopius Community Centre, Slunecni Sq. 1, Prague 13 - Nove Butovice
- 19 September, 2010 in Community House, K Vidouli 727, Prague 13 - Stodůlky

There would be performances of groups and choirs from the **Czech Republic**: Cantarina, Myšáci, YMCA Jakoubek, T'N'T, Columbella, Besharmonie, DNA, True Harmony, Mošny, Hradecké komorní tucteto, Geshem, Grandis, Nsango Malamu, Brno Gospel Choir, Svatopluk Karásek and Vockap, **France**: TF Gospel Singers, **Germany**: Gospel & Friends and Gospel Swingers, **Poland**: Opole Gospel Choir, **Hungary**: Frater Choir and Sopron Gospel and **Slovakia**: Caecilia Chorus, as well as **American** singer living in Prague: Lee Andrew Davison.

Spirituals, original songs of African slaves, are the main content of the program, but you could also hear the songs related: gospels and African spiritual songs. Festival does not put any music style limitations. Therefore you could hear the same songs in surprisingly different arrangements, for example choral polyphony, country and folk bands, bluegrass, acappella precious vocals, rhythm of ethno style or mysterious world music as well as pop sound of the contemporary gospel or classical traditional gospel.

Spiritual Fest is organized by the vocal acappella group Geshem. By this festival they support and develop community of musicians and singers having African-American Spirituals in their repertoire. But not only for their musical beauty and rhythmical captivation but especially for their social and spiritual message emphasizing traditional values as freedom, righteousness, respect to life, family, friendship and truth. Festival becomes a connecting point of people from various countries professing the same values regardless their belief.



That's not a happenstance that this new tradition of Spiritual Fest has arisen in the previous communist region as expression of desire for long-time denied freedom of believers and unbelievers as well, people, who experienced humiliation, discrimination and oppression during real socialism. But the more sincerely these songs are sung, the more confrontation with consumption lifestyle – modern kind of the slavery - they show us. Organizers of Spiritual Fest want to emphasize primary message of friendship and freedom engaged in spirituals by invitation of representatives of African countries embassies as well as organizations working in the field of human rights as Amnesty International, Youth for Human Rights and others.

Many thanks for financial and organizational support belong to St. Procopius Community Centre, City District Prague 13, Club Mlejn, Psalterium, Ministry of Culture of the Czech Republic, Zivot umelce Foundation and to dozens of volunteers helping with promotion and smooth running of the event. Promotion of the festival is supported by TV Noe, Broadcast stations Proglas and Countryradio, Folk union of the Czech Republic, Czech Radio, YMCA, Ecumenical Council of Churches in the Czech Republic, Choirs Union of the Czech Republic, internet pages www.christianpost.cz, www.ifolk.cz, www.signal.cz and others.

Detailed program you can find at www.afroamericanspirituals.org

On behalf of the choir Geshem I am looking forward to the meeting - which would be not only musical - and friendly atmosphere of the event.

Marek Šlechta

www.festival.spirituality.cz