

MEDIA RELEASE

NEWS FROM THE UNIVERSITY OF TASMANIA

DATE: TUESDAY 23 NOVEMBER 2010

ATTENTION: Chiefs of Staff, News Directors



Southern Gospel Choir celebrates Christmas with top Australian performers

The Southern Gospel Choir will celebrate Christmas in style with top Australian performers Silvie Paladino and Michael Spiby alongside a line-up of 100 Tasmanian singers including vocalist Maria Lurigi.

A Very Gospel Christmas will feature songs by a diverse range of performers from Stevie Wonder to Kirk Franklin, and be supported by the Very Righteous Gospel Band.

“We wanted to have something for everyone, focusing not only on traditional Christmas music, but a celebration of the voice and the joy of African American gospel music,” Conservatorium of Music Acting Head of School Andrew Legg said.

“With a 100-strong choir fronted by Silvie, Michael and Maria and backed by our big band, it promises to be a fantastic night, and a great and new way to celebrate Christmas.”

A Very Gospel Christmas will be held at Hobart City Hall on Friday, December 17 2010, at 7pm.

Tickets: \$40 Adults; \$30 Concession & Alumni; Groups of 10 or more, \$28 per person (transaction fees may apply). Centertainment: 53 Elizabeth Mall, Hobart: 03) 6234 5998; or purchase your tickets online at

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Guest performer bios:

SILVIE PALADINO has established herself as one of Australia's most versatile and talented entertainers. During 1989, Silvie was offered the role of Eponine in *LES MISERABLES*, an exciting opportunity for an 18-year-old. She continued performing the role for a further 12 months, touring Australia and New Zealand to critical acclaim. She received the same recognition in 1992 when she accepted an invitation to perform the role of Eponine on the West End in the London production of *LES MISERABLES*. In 1997, Silvie was invited to return to London where she performed the role of Fantine in *LES MISERABLES* for a successful two-year season.

Silvie's other Australasian credits include the role of Jeannie in *HAIR*, Grizabella in the Australian and Asian tour of *CATS*, Ellen in Cameron Mackintosh's Australian premiere of *MISS SAIGON*, Donna in the smash hit *MAMMA MIA!*, Rita in the world premiere of *SIDESHOW ALLEY* and more recently The Production Company's production of *THE KING AND I*.

In 2001, Silvie toured with her one-woman show *SILVIE PALADINO SINGS STREISAND*, for which she received rave reviews and was nominated for a Green Room Award. Silvie has released a live CD of this performance. In 2007 she released a Christmas album entitled *SILVIE PALADINO – CHRISTMAS LIST*.

Apart from her theatrical credits, she is well-known to Australian audiences through her regular television appearances including *CAROLS BY CANDLELIGHT* for the Nine Network. She has also featured at many special events such as the world-wide telecast of the Rugby League Grand Final, the Australian Football League Grand Final, Boxing Day Cricket Test and a showcase hosted by BHP Billiton, in Beijing, as part of the 2008 Olympics.

Silvie's concert performances include lead artist with The Melbourne Symphony, The Sydney Symphony, The West Australian Symphony, The Australian Philharmonic Orchestra, The State Orchestra of Victoria and the Tasmanian Symphony Orchestra. She has also toured with the Bangkok Symphony Orchestra in a series of concerts throughout Thailand and toured with international singer Patrizio Buanne throughout Australia.

Most recently she performed with celebrated theatrical composer Stephen Schwartz in concert and was invited to perform at the farewell concert of Hamer Hall in Melbourne before it closed for renovations.

MICHAEL SPIBY is a rare and distinctive talent; a soulful singer, compelling performer and a writer of songs that reach out and touch the hearts of many. Michael was the voice and songwriter of the Badloves, a band that enjoyed outstanding popularity in the mid '90's with the multi-platinum album *Get on Board*, housing timeless tracks such as *Green Limousine*, *Lost*, and *The*

Weight with Jimmy Barnes. The Badloves' rush of success was rewarded with triple Aria Awards, and a legion of loyal fans that grew with the band. After the release of their much anticipated second album *Holy Roadside* and several years of exhaustive touring which had taken its toll, the band called it a day. Fans were left with two classic albums and a host of Badloves compilations.

Spiby had to overcome the considerable burden of expectation, that he would continue to re-create Badloves magic. Instead, as a solo artist Michael Spiby confounded the cynics with the release of the acclaimed *Ho's Kitchen*, a remarkable album. The work saw him emerge as a mature artist, a singer/songwriter with his own story to tell and his own way of telling it.

As well as a year touring nationally with his solo band, and having a bit of fun with the briefly re-assembled Badloves, Michael was nominated for 'Best Contemporary Album Release' at the 14th Annual Aria Awards for *Ho's Kitchen* with the single *All My Love Ella* receiving high rotation airplay.

Since then Michael has been producing and recording, and providing guest performances for various projects. Michael also co-produced the Southern Gospel Choir's second album *High On A Mountain*.

www.utas.edu.au/music

www.michaelspiby.com