



THE KIMMEL CENTER
ACADEMY OF MUSIC
MERRIAM THEATER

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Renowned for their performance of "Stand By Me" at the #RoyalWedding, @TheKingdomChoir will perform at the @KimmelCenter's Merriam Theater for their first North American tour on 11/1! More info @ KimmelCenter.org

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**KIMMEL CENTER CULTURAL CAMPUS PRESENTS
THE KINGDOM CHOIR,
RENOWNED FOLLOWING ROYAL WEDDING PERFORMANCE,
LED BY AWARD-WINNING CONDUCTOR KAREN GIBSON
AT THE MERRIAM THEATER
NOVEMBER 1, 2019**

"...their vocal power and ecstatic harmonies make for spine-tingling moments"
- The Guardian

"While the choir's talent speaks for itself, their performance at Meghan and Harry's wedding surely put them on the map."
- Elite Daily

"The gospel choir that changed history."
- CNN

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE (Philadelphia, PA, October 9, 2019) – Following their show-stopping performance of "Stand By Me" at the Royal Wedding in 2018, London's **The Kingdom Choir** will bring their infectious joy and inspiration to the Kimmel Center's Merriam Theater on Friday, November 1, 2019 at 8:00 p.m. Their incredibly powerful rendition of the soul standard at The Royal Wedding

skyrocketed the group to global fame, garnering millions of views online. Now, the group embarks on their first North American tour in support of their debut album, *Stand By Me*. In the awe-inspiring show, The Kingdom Choir expertly blends Gospel standards with contemporary classics for a performance that is as modern as it is soulful.

“The Kingdom Choir resonates with audiences at their very core, on a spiritual and emotional level,” said Anne Ewers, President and CEO of the Kimmel Center for the Performing Arts. “Our Cultural Campus is home to a rich tapestry of art forms that reflect the diversity of Philadelphia and beyond. We know this performance will fully embrace our Campus vision to *transform lives daily through the arts* with a powerhouse performance and plenty of heart.”

Founded in 1994 by award-winning conductor Karen Gibson, the outstanding singers that make up The Kingdom Choir are drawn from various Christian traditions across Britain. For over two decades, they have delighted audiences worldwide, performing for such dignitaries and world leaders as Queen Elizabeth II, President Bill Clinton, Bishop Desmond Tutu, and Nelson Mandela. They have shared the stage with legendary performers like Sir Elton John, Luther Vandross, The Spice Girls, Michael Ball, Leslie Garrett, and Alexander O’Neal, as well as Gospel greats Andraé Crouch, Fred Hammond, Donnie McClurkin, Helen Baylor, Alvin Slaughter, and Jessy Dixon.

Their Royal Wedding performance last spring reached a 2-billion worldwide television audience. Their popularity has grown rapidly ever since with appearances on *Good Morning America*, *CBS News Saturday*, *NPR*, a *New York Times* feature, and over 10 million hits on their YouTube channel. *Stand By Me*, their first full length album, was released on Sony Music.

Karen Gibson, anointed Britain’s “Godmother of Gospel” following The Kingdom Choir’s performance at the Royal Wedding, is one of the UK’s most respected gospel tutors and choir conductors. She has conducted some of the most prestigious, large-scale choir across the UK. Her choirs are regular finalists or winners of choir competitions, including BBC Songs of Praise Gospel Choir of the Year.

Other featured upcoming performances at the Kimmel Center Cultural Campus include: **Chick Corea Trilogy** (October 27, 2019, Verizon Hall), **Black Violin: The Impossible Tour** (November 8, 2019, Academy of Music), **Taj Express: The Bollywood Musical Revue** (November 14, 2019, Merriam Theater) and **Béla Fleck & The Flecktones** (December 3, 2019, Verizon Hall).

THE KINGDOM CHOIR

Kimmel Center Cultural Campus’ Merriam Theater
November 1, 2019, 8:00 p.m.

Tickets

Tickets are on sale now starting at \$38.00. Tickets can be purchased by calling 215-893-1999, online at www.kimmelcenter.org, or at the Kimmel Center Box Office. Group sales are available for groups of 10 or more and can be purchased by calling 215-790-5883. See www.kimmelcenter.org for more information.

The Kimmel Center Cultural Campus

Located in the heart of Center City, Philadelphia, our mission is to engage the region’s diverse communities with art through performance and education. Our Cultural Campus serves more than 1 million guests per year and includes the **Kimmel Center for the Performing Arts**, the **Academy of Music**,

and the **Merriam Theater**- representing more than 160 years of rich history for the performing arts along Philadelphia's Avenue of the Arts. We are home to eight esteemed Resident Companies: **The Philadelphia Orchestra, Opera Philadelphia, Pennsylvania Ballet, The Philly POPS, PHILADANCO, The Chamber Orchestra of Philadelphia, The Philadelphia Chamber Music Society, and Curtis Institute of Music**. With nearly 9,000 seats per night, we are the region's most impactful performing arts center, and the second largest in the country. Our Cultural Campus serves as a preeminent and inclusive place to enjoy exceptional experiences that reflect the spirit of our region by cultivating a creative and socially-responsible environment where our community shares experiences that are delivered with pride, integrity, and respect. As a 501 c 3 nonprofit organization, we collaborate on, present, and produce a broad range of relevant and meaningful events, we serve as an active gathering space for social and community events, we educate the region's young people through access to quality arts experiences, and we provide support to artists in the creation of new work. TD Bank, America's Most Convenient Bank, is our proud sponsor of the Kimmel Center's 2019-2020 Season. American Airlines is the official airline of Broadway Philadelphia. For additional information, visit www.kimmelcenter.org.

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For photography, please visit <https://kcpres.smugmug.com/>