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Gladys Knight and the
Saints Unified Voice Choir
Release First CD

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January 2005

Gladys Knight and Saints Unified Voices Share Faith, Break Barriers and Embrace Diversity with

“One Voice”



Gladys Knight

Motown legend Gladys Knight is on a crusade to share her faith in The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, and she's got a 100-voice culturally-diverse gospel choir backing her up.

What an effective platform for sharing the gospel!

People who wouldn't otherwise enter an LDS church are overfilling the chapels and cultural halls of our stake centers just to experience an evening with Gladys Knight and her choir.

According to President Richard Zobrist, second counselor in the Las Vegas Stake, which hosted the choir's fireside last October, about five hundred copies of the Book of Mormon, each personalized with handwritten testimonies by stake members, and several hundred Church videos were distributed in one night.

Other stakes in the Las Vegas area have experienced similar results.

"I can't think of any event our stake could host that

would bring in as many visitors as Gladys Knight's choir," said President Ivan Holland of the Anthem Stake in Henderson after hosting the choir's fireside.

Thanks to the many generous donations the nonprofit choir is receiving, the *Saints Unified Voices* directed by Gladys Knight, which is based in Las Vegas, will present its stake fireside program in California, Georgia, Arizona, New York and Hawaii as well as in Las Vegas in 2005. Additional destinations are still being considered.

Everyone involved with the SUV Choir is passionate about the potential it has to break cultural barriers and open doors to sharing the message of the restored gospel.

"We feel a great spirit accompanying this music and

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this missionary cause, and it's exciting to watch the Spirit at work," said choir member Jay Young. "There is no greater thrill for us than to hear the missionaries tell us of investigators who felt the Spirit at our fireside."

The choir's secondary goal is to help members of this worldwide church appreciate the cultural diversity of the wonderful people coming into the Lord's kingdom.

"I love watching the faces in the audience because it's clear that many church members are not sure how to react to our music," said Jay. "They seem to wrestle with reacting as tradition tells them to or the way the music makes them feel. Eventually, most give way to full enjoyment of the music as they feel the Spirit at work."

"I don't know when I've had so much fun and felt the Spirit so strong at a fireside," said Dr. Carey Noorda, who brought his family and a few visitors to a recent fireside.

Sister Knight organized the SUV Choir for a special stake fireside more than two years ago at the request of the Green Valley Stake in Henderson.

"There is an amazing difference between the choir's sound when we first started and the way it sounds now," she said. "This is such a part of my testimony, that the Lord is helping this choir succeed."

One Voice

In January, Sister Knight and the SUV Choir, as she affectionately calls it, are celebrating the nationwide release of their first CD *One Voice*, named after the choir's fireside program. This CD helps fulfill President Gordon B. Hinckley's request for the choir to "Share your music with the world."

"What an awesome opportunity I have to serve the Lord through music," said Sister Knight. "I've always sung for the Lord, and now He has blessed me with a choir and a calling to share His gospel with the rest of the world through my music. I just want to do what He has asked of us all, to feed His sheep."

From the energetic gospel classic "Pass Me Not," to the inspirational solo "He Lives," to the beloved "I am a Child of God," *One Voice* offers musical insight into numerous feelings, cultures and ways of worship. Also included is an African rendition of "Come Come Ye Saints," inspired by the poignant stories of Saints in Africa who demonstrate great courage and faith in joining the Church.



Gladys Knight and the SUV Choir received a charge from President Hinckley, "share your music with the world." Their new CD does just that.

"I know from experience the difference our music makes in the lives of many people," said choir member Buffie Lucas. "Our gospel music has a powerful way of uplifting and communicating, celebrating and enriching lives like no other style of music."

Sister Knight said that the message a song conveys is as important to her as the emotions the music evokes.

"I choose all of the choir's songs for their basic messages," she said. "I fell in love with "I Am a Child of God" when I

sang it at my granddaughter's baptism long before I joined the Church. I heard the message in it even then." *One Voice* is available nationally at Deseret Book, retail music stores and online. Proceeds will allow the choir to present its stake fireside program all around the country. For information visit www.suvchoir.org or call (702) 433-3016. *DSM*

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