



## PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### University Gospel Choir of the Year Springs Back To Life

It's "Sister Act meets X Factor"! Join us for a soul-stirring, fun filled live competition for the whole family!

After achieving success in previous years, UGCY is aiming to stage the most spectacular show yet. This annual Gospel choir competition brings together the best of the best from across the UK, in an epic showdown, for just one night only - 25th March 2023.

A total of **eight university gospel choirs** have secured a place in the hotly contested finals of the 11th Annual **UGCY - University Gospel Choir of the Year** competition which will take place on **Saturday 25th of March 2023 at Oasis House, Croydon**.

The winner will be announced on the night by the **Mayor of Croydon** who will also be in attendance.

UGCY 2023 is organised in partnership with **AStepFWD**, a multi-media platform organisation that curates the monthly **UK Christian Charts** (the only national independent music charting system in the UK) along with initiatives such as the Masterclass Series, Artist Relief Fund, Poets In Autumn World Tour and the annual **StepFWD Awards** along with many other trailblazing initiatives.

**University Gospel Choir of the Year** was founded in 2011 by **Lorraine Wright MBE**, and continues to provide a prestigious platform where choirs can develop and showcase their musical ability in a supportive community environment, bridging the gap of geographic location and variety of alumni, bringing wider audience engagement.

The following choirs are shortlisted to compete this year (listed in alphabetical order):

- BIMM Birmingham Gospel Choir (BIMM Birmingham Music College)
- Christ Church Gospel (Canterbury Christ Church University)
- Durham University Gospel Choir (Durham University)
- Kent Gospel Choir (University of Kent)
- KUGC (Keele University)
- UoB Gospel Choir (University of Birmingham)
- VOCE Gospel Choir (UCL)
- Warwick Gospel Choir (Warwick University)

To add an element of variety, the rules of this year's UGCY will for the first time allow choirs to feature **a special guest artist** to perform as part of their final set. Many contemporary choir groups favour collaborations as a way of creatively adding variety and versatility to their sound.

The event day will see university choirs from all across the UK competing with each other, including strong contenders such as BIMM - currently featuring in the current Songs of Praise Gospel Choir of the Year competition. A judging panel will carefully consider the overall performance of each choir on the basis of theme, choreography, musicality, arrangement and harmony to mention a few key criteria.

As always the UGCY will be full of dancing, laughter and roaring cheers (and a few tears!) with the soon to be announced Gospel Music experts judging the competition and ultimately deciding which choir will be crowned the 2023 University Gospel Choir of the Year.

The University Gospel Choir of the Year will be held on Saturday 25th March 2023 at Oasis House, Croydon CR0 3EX with doors open from 6pm. [TICKETS](#) are now available and this event is not to be missed!

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### **Notes To Editors:**

1. The University Gospel Choir of the Year competition has run for 9 consecutive years and was paused only due to the global pandemic. Following the festival gathering held last year, 2023 marks the 11th edition of UGCY.
2. Alongside the UK arm of the competition UGCY Ghana was recently launched and has to date worked with thousands of students from over 60 UK and 20 Ghanaian universities, has aired on ABN TV and in Ghana as a reality TV series.
3. This 2023 University Gospel Choir of the Year is a joint initiative between UGCY and AStepFWD - a trailblazing organisation at the forefront of diversity within the Christian creative space.
4. AStepFWD runs the monthly UK Christian Charts and has one of the biggest Christian music databases in the UK across all genres and styles.
5. A key aim of AStepFWD is to engage, support and empower creatives across genre, age and location.

**PLEASE NOTE:** For **UGCY** press release, promo images and more go to: [Media Pack](#)

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