

Gospel Heaven, Sunday 3rd November 4pm - 6pm, Frederikshavn Kirke

Denmark's biggest blues and soul festival, Blues Heaven, now in its 14th year will feature a brand new church concept - Gospel Heaven - which will take place on Sunday afternoon following the festival.

On the first Sunday of November, a unique and amazing gospel concert experience will take place in the beautiful local church, Frederikshavn Kirke. The church was built in the Romanesque style in 1892 and was modeled on Aachen Cathedral in Germany. The altarpiece was made by famous painter Michael Ancher and seats more than 1,100 people. For this concert, however, there will **be only 600 tickets** available, to ensure the very best musical experience for everyone attending.

Gospel Heaven will showcase an award-winning lineup of singers who all have an African-American Baptist background, which is the hotbed of this life-affirming music.

The 2-hour concert will see the biggest voices from this year's festival perform alongside a **large gospel choir from London**. As house band, there will be **The Joe Louis Walker's Band**, with sensational soul vocalists such as, **Curtis Salgado**, **Thornetta Davis**, **Tad Robinson**, and **Kenny "Blues Boss" Wayne** all performing as soloists. Then add **The Bender Brass**, known as one of the world's best tight 3-piece horn section. All artists have strong links with the American gospel tradition.

Providing the foundation for the concert is the **IDMC choir**. (The Individuals Dedicated to the Ministry of Christ) choir is an English gospel choir celebrating their 25th anniversary, which consists of 15 members conducted by founder and award-winning musician John Fisher. IDMC have released 9 albums of gospel, soul and funk, and have toured extensively in Europe, performing with many great soloists including the Italian tenor, **Luciano Pavarotti**. They have sung at the opening of the **2012 Olympic Games**, and **Queen Elizabeth's 60th Anniversary**.

Portland's blues brother **Curtis Salgado** is a blues-based, R&B, soul singer with earth-shaking vocals. He has fronted bands such as **The Robert Cray Band**, **Roomful of Blues**, and the **Carlos Santana** band. This blues and soul legend has won a total of 9 Blues Music Awards in Memphis.

Detroit's 'Queen of the Blues' **Thornetta Davis** has won a staggering 30 Detroit Blues Awards during her career. Her voice is strong and commanding, yet melodic and smooth. She tells her stories with incredible delivery and leaves her audiences wanting more. She has gained international acclaim and won the International Songwriting Competition (ISC) in 2018 for Best Blues Song and also received the prestigious French La Academie du Jazz Award for Best Blues Album with her latest album, 'Honest Woman'.

Tad Robinson is a highly respected contemporary blues and soul singer who received his musical upbringing in Chicago and was also schooled by soul-legends Al Green and Sam Cooke. He has 30 years experience and an understanding that a singer's role is to tell a story. He uses his impressive range to paint pictures that delve deep into the human experience. Tad received hero status for his 2011 song, 'Rained All Night' and has gathered a total of 8 BMA nominations.

There's no boogie-woogie-blues piano man out there today who pounds the 88s with the conviction of **Kenny "Blues Boss" Wayne**. The multiple-award-winning Kenny is called "Blues Boss" for good reason. Born in 1944, his musical career began as a child prodigy in the 1960s and has continued to flourish for over 50 years with Wayne at the forefront of modern-day blues piano practitioners.

The Bender Brass is the creme de la creme of horn sections and is ready and able to add some hot brass to any of the bands coming to the festival. The Benders are handpicked and led by saxophonist **Jimmy Carpenter**, featuring trumpeter **Doug Woolverton** with **Mark Earley** on baritone sax. All are top musicians, with collectively over 90 years of experience and have played with the "Who's Who" of blues, soul, gospel, rock, and jazz.

These artists will also be performing over the weekend at the acclaimed Blues Heaven Festival. In 2018, the festival won the award for '**International Festival of The Year**' from the French blues magazine Zicazic. In January, Blues Heaven came 2nd in the '**Best Festival of the Year**' awards with Polish blues magazine Twój Blues. Organizer Peter Astrup also won the coveted new **Danish Blues Music Award**, '**Hoochie Coochie Man of the Year**' and in March, Peter also won the **Toneværk Award** and was awarded a prize of DKK 20,000. In 2018, the Festival attracted audiences from **17 different countries** which saw all local hotels sold out several months in advance of the festival.

www.gospelheaven.dk, www.bluesheaven.dk and www.frederikshavnkirke.dk, for further details.

Where: Frederikshavn Kirke, Kirkepladsen 4, DK-9900 Frederikshavn
When: Sunday 3rd November 4pm - 6pm (Doors open 3pm)
Ticket Price: DKK 295,- (€40,-)