

OSLO GOSPEL CHOIR

NEW CD:

I GO TO THE ROCK

Oslo 11th of November 2014

Ever since Oslo Gospel Choir was founded in 1988, I've had a dream. I wanted to produce a CD with the good old gospel songs, having its roots in Chicago. Now this dream has come through. Just a couple of days from now, the CD will be released. I feel excited about this. *I Go To The Rock* contains 11 songs, all well known to gospel enthusiasts all over the world. The arrangements are new and fresh, and suit the Oslo Gospel Choir well.

My dream was also to invite some good friends from different countries to sing some of the leads. I'm honoured that they wanted to join the project. You probably know some of them:

Evie Törnqvist Karlsson (USA/NORWAY/SWEEDEN)

is living in Florida, but her husband is Swedish, and her mother is Norwegian. The first time I listened to her music, I was only 16 years old. She sang like an angel. Since then I have listened to all her albums. Finally, in 2011, I met her face to face in Norway. We did a concert together, and one of the songs that evening was *The Blood*, composed by Andrae Crouch. Many years ago Andrae told me that this song has never been performed better by anyone. He loves her version of the song, and I love it too. Evie has been travelling for years with Billy Graham, and also with the Gaithers.

Pearl Jozefzoon (THE NETHERLANDS)

is a new friend. I first met her a year ago. She came number two in the competition *The Voice of Holland*. She later on did a wonderful concert in a gospel festival in Holland, which I was visiting. I was thrilled by her voice and her integrity. On the CD she sings the lead on *Sometimes I Feel Like a Motherless Child*. One of the most well known gospel songs ever.

Calvin Bridges (USA)

is living in Chicago. He has been a true friend for many years, and he can sing! You have met him on the choir's CD's and in concerts. On the new album he sings the lead on *Jesus Is The Light Of The World*. This song I first heard in First Church of Deliverance, a black church in Chicago. Calvin knows how to sing lead on this very traditional song. Awesome.

David Thomas (GERMANY)

I have known for many years. He lives in Germany, but originally he comes from Manchester in U.K. David is a great friend and an excellent singer, songwriter and producer. I'm so proud to have him on this album. The way he sings *I'm So Glad Jesus Lifted Me* makes me feel happy. I believe in every word he sings. He is a real storyteller.

Samuel Ljungbladh (SWEDEN)

I met for the first time a few weeks ago. He's from Sweden, and came to Oslo to record his songs. From the first second we connected. He sings the lead on *Glad To Be In The Service* and *It's a Highway To Heaven*. Samuel has a strong and wonderful voice. When he started singing, I thought I was listening to a black gospel singer from Chicago, but he is white and Swedish. What a great performer and preacher!

Besides these wonderful friends, I'm happy to announce also that five members of the choir are doing leads on the CD: *Gro, Kine, Marte, Lars* and *Hans Esben* are all singing gospel like never before. The Choir also, is in tremendous form.

I am also thankful to the musicians on the album. The band is recorded in Chicago, and consists of three black musicians in addition to my good friend Peter Sandwall from Sweden. It sounds great! I hope you will enjoy listening to the album and discover the roots and joy of American Gospel Music.

Tore W. Aas