



October 2025

Gospel Meets Symphony Choir:

Gospel Meets Symphony will be Saturday, February 8, 2024 at 7:30 p.m. at EJ Thomas Hall (198 Hill St., Akron OH 44325), under the direction of Music Director Christopher Wilkins and Gospel Meets Symphony Choirmaster Jonathon Turner.

Gospel Meets Symphony brings together a unique blend of traditional symphonic music with gospel creating a moving and memorable experience. This marks 31 years that Gospel Meets Symphony has been one of the largest African American events in Akron OH.

We will kick-off GMS 2025 with a “READING” on Saturday, October 26th at 2:00pm.

- The “READING” will not be virtual.
- A “READING” is an overview of what to expect for GMS 2025.
- At 2:00pm Saturday, October 26th, choir members will receive a video link of Jonathon giving an overview of the highlights for 2025.
- It will be available through the GMS 2025 google drive. Everyone will have access to the drive.
- On the google drive, you will have access to the GMS 2025 lyrics, sheet music for the classical and spirituals only, and the program.
- Choir members will be responsible for following through with the GMS reading/overview.

Our first in person GMS rehearsal will be Saturday, November 2nd at First United Methodist Church located at 263 E. Mill St., Akron OH 44308 from 2:00pm - 4:00pm. The GMS 2025 schedule is attached.

Gospel Meets Symphony will be participating in 3 concerts outside of our GMS concert. All 3 of these concerts are voluntary. If you're interested in participating in one or all of these concerts, please let Brenda Justice know as soon as possible. Below are the 3 concert dates:

- Wednesday, December 11, 2024 - The Akron Bicentennial kickoff celebration concert for 2025 at the Akron Civic. The Akron Symphony is honored to be a part of the 200th year anniversary of Akron's Bicentennial. We will be doing two works to be sung by a "One City" Choir, composed of members of the Akron Symphony Chorus, Gospel Meets Symphony, Gospel Meets Symphony 2.0., Summit Choral, and Firestone High School. We would like 20 volunteers from the Gospel Meets Symphony to represent the Akron Symphony in the "One City" Choir. We will be performing Beethoven 9 Finale excerpts and America the Beautiful.
- Friday, December 13, 2024 - GMS will be participating in Akron Symphony's Holiday Pops concert. We will be performing 2 selections, one of the selections will be with the Akron Symphony Chorus and the other selection will be a GMS stand-alone.

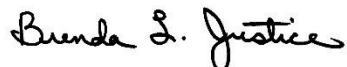
- Saturday, January 18, 2025 – GMS will be singing in the Rhapsody in Blue concert featuring Theron Brown. The choir will be singing an arrangement of Omar Thomas's *Lift Every Voice* as a concert opener.

The GMS 2.0 Choir will be taking registrations. If you know of a child between the ages of 10-18 who would be interested in being in this junior choir, please have them contact Brenda Justice. We are honored that GMS 2.0 will be performing a stand-alone selection in Akron's Bicentennial concert. They will also be performing 2 selections in the Gospel Meets Symphony concert. This is a great experience for our future GMS Choir members.

We are looking forward to the upcoming events. We are welcoming new choir members till November 16th. Bring a friend!

I'll keep everyone updated weekly. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me.

Blessings,



Brenda L. Justice, Coordinator of Choral Activities
Akron Symphony Gospel Meets Symphony