

PRESS RELEASE

A long journey finally reaches its goal

Gospel Changes from Leipzig present CD with international stars

July 31st 2020, Leipzig – **Gospel Changes**, THE gospel choir from Leipzig under the direction of **Maik Godzinski** and **Therese Galetzka** will present their first CD with the title “Pilgrim Journey” this fall. The name says it all: the album reflects the journey of the choir with all its companions, builds international bridges and creates something totally new with two songs showing Arabic influences.

The choir is known thanks to its many regional and national concerts and TV appearances (e.g. the competition for the ZDF Christmas choir or together with Olaf Schubert) as well as the opening of the 100th anniversary of the Katholikentag (German Catholics Convention) in Leipzig. “After the concerts, we’ve often been asked whether we have a CD because the audience wanted to take us home”, explains Godzinski. But a simple concert recording was not enough for the ambitious musician. It shouldn’t just be a “gospel recording like so many others”. “What characterizes us as a choir is on the one hand the enthusiasm for this music that we pass on to our concert audience and on the other hand a very special sound that has been developed by Maik but also contains many influences from associated musicians”, describes Galetzka. This special sound and our close relationship with many talented artists from the gospel scene should be reflected on the album. That’s why we developed a tracklist of ten songs: one half with songs by Godzinski and the other half with songs by friends of the choir. Most of the songs were specifically composed for this CD. The opening song is written by the famous Norwegian singer **Mads Pedersen**, while **Joakim Arenius**, the Swedish star composer contributed the eponymous song “On a Pilgrim Journey”. Many international luminaries joined for the production. **Dorrey Lin Lyles** („The Weather Girls“) and the Lebanese jazz singer **Rabih Lahoud** („Masaa“) who has been nominated for the Echo award both perform as soloists. Other celebrities of the German and European gospel scene contributed their voices: Broadway-Star **Deborah Woodson**, **Hanjo Gäbler** („Martin-Luther-King-Musical“ and others), **Chris Lass**, **Mads Pedersen**, **Lindsay Lewis** as well as the two choir directors Therese Galetzka and Maik Godzinski. The choir recordings were led by the German gospel star **Helmut Jost** who can be heard on the bass. The Italian star organist **Alberto Marsico** plays the Hammond-organ on most songs with his compatriot **Alessandro Minetto** on the drums. **André Engelbrecht** and Maik Godzinski play the piano. A wide variety of percussion instruments by **Gaston Endmann** adds the little something and **Lars Kutschke** on guitar complements the ensemble. **Frank Nowicky** was responsible for the arrangements of the wind instruments. A special goody is a song with bassist **Andrew Gouché** who introduced the electrical bass to gospel music and who has performed live on stage with stars such as Michael Jackson, Madonna or Quincy Jones.

However, the unique character of this CD can not only be seen in the international star cast but also in the musical approach. Two of the songs written by Godzinski were complemented by Arabic improvisations by Rabih Lahoud. This presents something completely new musically and causes goose bumps. „*Gospel is more than music. Gospel is friendship, Gospel is solidarity, Gospel is a journey through different cultures, different styles and different dreams*“, summarizes Godzinski the motivation of this album.

The CD „Pilgrim Journey“ by Gospel Changes is available in stores and on all download and streaming platforms from September 2nd 2020.

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