

for immediate release . . .

**GOSPEL MUSIC LEGENDS, BILL & GLORIA GAITHER, BRING AN OKLAHOMA HOMECOMING TO TULSA'S MABEE CENTER FOR 2-DAY CONCERT EVENT - TICKETS ON TUESDAY, MARCH 21**

**Alexandria IN** - On August 18 & 19, Gospel Music legends Bill & Gloria Gaither will present the Oklahoma Homecoming at the Mabee Center in Tulsa for a second straight year. Over the course of two days, more than two dozen Homecoming friends will gather for this exciting weekend.

After decades of unprecedented musical success, in 1992 two former school teachers turned songwriters were on the verge of retirement. An avid fan of Gospel quartets throughout his childhood, Bill Gaither founded his first group, The Bill Gaither Trio in 1956 while in college. A few years later he would meet his future wife, Gloria Sickal. The two would marry in 1962 and go on to become arguably the most successful Gospel songwriting team in history, collectively penning more than 700 songs and becoming ASCAP Songwriters of the Century.

Before retiring, Gaither gathered his multi-talented quartet, The Gaither Vocal Band, and a few of his long-time heroes like Jake Hess, Hovie Lister, Eva Mae LeFevre, Howard and Vestal Goodman, James Blackwood, Glen Payne, George Younce and JD Sumner to record the classic song, *Where Could I Go*. "The plan was to go in that morning, record the song, eat some fried chicken and go home," Gaither remembers. "We had a camera guy in the room video taping, really just for my own personal pleasure, and we decided to take a picture before everyone left. After we took the picture, Eva Mae was sitting at the piano and someone said, 'Hey Eva Mae, play this' . . . then everyone started singing. About four hours later, we were still sitting around, singing, sharing stories, laughing and crying, and no one wanted to leave. We had lost all track of time."

When Gaither got the video footage home, he showed it to his wife, Gloria, and the two decided it was something that needed to be shared with the world. Now, 30 years later the Homecoming music collection has become a phenomenon that has captured the hearts of millions worldwide. The series gave birth to the Gaither Homecoming concert tour, which has taken place in cities worldwide with collective attendance figures exceeding more than 1.1 million, while nearly every volume in the the DVD & CD series has certified gold or platinum.

Excitement permeates as Gaither talks about presenting yet another Homecoming event and his return to the Mabee Center for this two-day summer music spectacular. "We absolutely love going to the Mabee Center. It's one of our favorite places. We have probably played the Mabee Center over the years more than any other arena in the country. We love the facility and love the staff. It's such a welcoming place not only for the artists but also for the fans. It's just a great place and we look forward to returning in August."

"For 45 years, the Gaithers have entertained Tulsa audiences with their incredible style of Southern Gospel," Tony Winters, Mabee Center General Manager shares. "The Gaithers have performed at the Mabee Center more times than any other artist in our history and we are extremely excited to have them back for this wonderful Homecoming event in August."

The Oklahoma Homecoming brings together more than 20 artists on one stage for a weekend that has the promise of being quite special. The weekend will feature Gaither's own Vocal Band, consisting of Wes Hampton, Reggie Smith, Adam Crabb and Todd Suttles, as well as Gaither alum Mark Lowry, Grammy-winner Jason Crabb, Marshall Hall and Gordon Mote, as well as well as popular multi-award winning groups like The Nelons, The Sound, The Martins, Karen Peck & New River and Jeff and Sheri Easter. Additionally, popular Homecoming artists set to appear include Lynda Randle, Joseph Habedank, Joy Gardner, Ladye Love Smith, Jeanne Johnson, Gene McDonald, Wesley Pritchard, Ann Downing, Angie Primm, Woody Wright and maybe even a few special surprises which Gaither always seems to bring to events, including newcomers like Chris Blue and Jake Cooley.

Make plans now to be a part of this two-day Oklahoma Homecoming in Tulsa at the Mabee Center August 18 & 19. Visit [www.gaither.com](http://www.gaither.com) for complete concert information.

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