

## **NOVA SCOTIA MASS CHOIR**

The Nova Scotia Mass Choir is a multicultural, award-winning, community gospel choir based in Halifax, Nova Scotia, Canada. In 2017, the choir marked its 25th year of singing for racial harmony and peace.

Nova Scotia Mass Choir has produced three CDs – *He Never Failed Me Yet, Heaven*, and most recently, in 2016, *Immanuel*. In 2017, the choir won Music Nova Scotia's Inspirational Recording of the Year for *Immanuel*.

Also in 2017, Nova Scotia Mass Choir won the African Nova Scotian Music Association's Artist/Group of the Year Award. The choir has also won numerous other awards over its 25-year history, including two East Coast Music Association Awards for Gospel Group of the Year (2000) and Blues/Gospel Group of the Year (1997). In 2014, the choir was the recipient of a Nova Scotia Human Rights Award.

The African Nova Scotian Music Association has also recognized the choir for Best Live Performance (1998), Best Gospel (1999) and a Heritage Award (2011).

A sensational 1992 debut at the International Gospel Festival in Halifax inspired the Nova Scotia Mass Choir to keep singing—wherever it can and to all who will listen. The choir has performed for Martin Luther King III, along with international artists such as The Staple Family Singers, Cissy Houston, Almeta Speaks, and the Winans. The choir transcended borders and colour at the 30th anniversary celebration of Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s March on Washington in 1993, and at the Southern Christian Leadership Convention in Dallas, Texas in 1995.

Nova Scotia Mass Choir first joined Symphony Nova Scotia on stage in 1993 for the annual tribute to Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Since 2003, this tribute concert to carry on Dr. King's dream has been the choir's signature event.

Each year at this tribute, we honour the contributions of African Nova Scotians. Past honourees have included Portia White, Viola Desmond and Burnley (Rocky) Jones.

Since 1994, Nova Scotia Mass Choir has commemorated the International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination with a concert. It conducted an Erascism Tour in Nova Scotian schools, and regularly participates in community events such as the Halifax Freedom Day Gospel Festival.

Nova Scotia Mass Choir showcased its talent and hosted two seasons [1996-1997] on national television. HALLELUJAH, a thirteen-part series on CBC and Vision TV, included special guests Four the Moment, Salome Bey, Jeri Brown, Holly Cole, Matt Minglewood, Oliver Jones, Dutch Robinson, the late Raylene Rankin, Joe Sealy, Mavis Staples, Martha Reeves, Frank MacKay, Jackie Richardson and others. In 2013, NSMC recorded Gospel to Go for Vision TV and was featured in a documentary series, Songs of Freedom with world-renowned opera singer Measha Brueggergosman.

The choir has dazzled audiences at Atlantic Jazz Festivals appearing with Terence Blanchard, the Montreal Jubilation Choir Trio, and Molly Johnson. Its performance with Johnny Reid in 2010 was

broadcast on PBS and CMT. The choir recorded live at the Glenn Gould Studio in Toronto for broadcast on CBC radio in 2001, and our Share the Dream concert was broadcast nationally on CBC in 2010.

The Nova Scotia Mass Choir is under the musical direction of Owen "O'Sound" Lee.