



# NEWS RELEASE

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**For immediate release  
October 22, 1998**

## **2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Gospel Explosion slated for November 7**

Ricky Dillard's New Generation Chorale will be featured at the Second Annual Gospel Explosion to be held at University of Southern Indiana. Sponsored by USI's Multicultural Center, the Gospel Explosion also includes local gospel groups and will begin at 6 p.m. on Saturday, November 7, in Carter Hall, University Center.

The New Generation Chorale was organized in March 1988 under the direction of gospel singer and songwriter Ricky Dillard as a result of a fund raising benefit concert to assist a suburban Chicago church. The choir, known also as "New G" expanded from 23 singers to the present 60 voices and 13-member band with 37 choir members appearing in Evansville

One year after being organized, they won first place in the McDonald's Chicagoland Gospelfest Choir Competition. The same year, New G appeared on the *Chicago Remembers Dr. King* television special, aired on Chicago's WGN-TV, and appeared on the nationally-televised *Going Home with Patti LaBelle* special. They also appeared with Dillard on NBC's *Comic Relief Salutes Michael Jordan* and ABC's *Paula Poundstone Show*.

New G and Dillard received a Grammy nomination for their first recorded release, *The Promise*. Their second recording with Dillard, *A Holy Ghost Takeover*, earned the "Stellar Award" for album of the year. New G and Dillard later produced *Hallelujah!* and the most recent CD, *Worked It Out*, was recorded live at the World Outreach Center in Chicago.

Pamela Hopson, coordinator of the event said, "This is a very dynamic performance of current gospel music. The show will appeal to people of all ages and really raise your spirit."

Also performing is The African American Chorale Ensemble, a group of 50 young people in the Evansville community. This group is sponsored by the Evansville-Vanderburgh School Corporation.

Tickets for the public performance are \$5 in advance and \$7 at the door. Students may purchase tickets for \$3 in advance and \$5 at the door. Please call Pamela Hopson, director of USI's Multicultural Center, at 812/465-7188 for more information about the event or to order tickets. Visit the online site <<http://malaco.com/gospel/rdillard/>> for images and further information about the performers.