

The Minneapolis Gospel Sound is considered one of the premier gospel groups performing in the United States today. It is only fitting that they are kicking off a glorious final day of the blues at this year's festival with their musical message. Since their genesis in 1987, the R&B-, soul-, and funk-fused gospel of the Minneapolis Gospel Sound has moved countless audiences with their message of faith that praises racial equality and acceptance. The Minneapolis Gospel Sound has held church at many regional venues including the Guthrie, Orpheum, World, and Ordway theaters, as well as maintaining a 50-plus night touring schedule that has brought them to many blues and jazz festivals and universities across the nation. A personal highlight for the group was when they backed the "Queen of Soul," Aretha Franklin, during the halftime show of the 1992 Super Bowl. Their set includes original compositions and contemporary versions of old hand-clapping gospel and spiritual standards such as



"Oh Happy Day," "People Get Ready," "Lean On Me," and "Amazing Grace" that are sure to get you out of your chair and dancin' on the Bayfront lawn. In 1989, they were named the Best Gospel Group at the Minnesota Black Music Awards. In 1995, the Minnesota Music Academy named them Best Gospel Group. Be prepared to be moved by their spirited, high-soaring harmonies that are paired with Heavenly gospel, funk, and heartfelt soul.