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AUSTRALIAN JAZZ LEGEND JAMES MORRISON RELEASES GOSPEL COLLECTION

James Morrison is undoubtedly one of Australia's best known musicians.

Besides the trumpet, this multi-instrumentalist plays trombone, flugel horn, saxophones, piano and organ.

James has performed with many of the legends of jazz - Dizzy Gillespie, Cab Calloway, Woody Shaw, Red Rodney, George Benson, Ray Charles, B.B. King, Ray Brown and Wynton Marsalis to name a few.

But Morrison says that his introduction to the genre was through, what he calls, 'gospel jazz'.

"I first heard jazz music performed by a minister playing the trombone in a church. That was Neil Gough in Sydney when I was just seven years old," Morrison says.

Now 30 years later, James presents his first album of gospel classics - *Gospel Collection* - masterful renditions of *Down by the Riverside*, *Joyful Joyful*, *Amazing Grace*, *Blessed Assurance*, *The Old Rugged Cross*, *My Tribute*, plus two new songs including *There A Place*.

Morrison says he has taken a different approach to choosing the songs for this album.

"When I'm choosing songs for a mainstream album, it's not nearly so important what the songs are," he says.

"It's important that I like the sound of them; and that musically they fit together on an album.

"But if one song happens to be a love song and another happens to be about something else -it doesn't really matter.

"Here, what the songs are about matters. It is the whole purpose.

“Instead of the musical sound being the deciding factor, what the songs are about is the deciding factor.

“You’ve got songs with a message like *Amazing Grace*, and you’ve got another like *His Eye Is On The Sparrow*.

“It’s what the songs have to say that is important,” he emphasises.

James is supported throughout the *Gospel Collection* with stellar vocals from Emma Pask, The Idea of North, and Neilson Gough.

Gospel Collection is available from Koorong and Word Bookstores.

Distributor: Kennedy International (02) 9604-3600

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