



# L. Stanley Davis

**L. STANLEY DAVIS** – a native of Baltimore, Maryland is a former Graduate Fellow in the doctoral program at Northwestern University in the area of Performance Studies. Davis is a noted clinician, historian, and specialist in Black Sacred Music with an emphasis in gospel and black sacred music history & performance, and has taught at both DePaul and Loyola Universities in Chicago. As a noted instructor at Northwestern University – in both the departments of African American Studies in the College of Arts and Sciences and the School of Music from 1994 to 2005, he was named three times to the Associated Student Government’s Faculty Honor Roll for excellence in teaching.

Mr. Davis’ achievements reflect his lifelong love, passion, dedication and commitment to music. He served as Associate Editor of GIA Publications’ *African American Heritage Hymnal*, and as a sales representative and presenter for the company’s African American Church Music division at workshops, conferences and annual conventions across the country. A sought-after musical project consultant to Corporate America, Davis has worked with WJPC-General Mills, McDonald’s Corp., Wrigley Gum, Quaker Oats, Burrell Public Relations and Kellogg’s -- ensuring these entities’ success and positive return-on-investment in both the Black Church and the gospel music communities.

An educator by both nature and acumen, Stanley Davis co-founded Gospel Arts Workshop, a not-for-profit arts organization dedicated to the preservation, production, and promotion of the gospel music art form. The group’s trail-blazing concert productions, *O, For a Thousand Tongues to Sing*, served as the catalyst and primary model for the City of Chicago’s annual Gospel Fest series. Davis scored another first, when in 1987 he became a member of a select group of singers and musicians – The Voices of Resurrection – who introduced the gospel sound to Australia for the very first time. Since then, Mr. Davis has travelled the globe—including Sweden, Korea, France and the U.K., as well as the length & breadth of the U.S. training choirs, teaching internationally on college campuses, and performing on television, radio and at music festivals alongside internationally-recognized entertainers including Michael Bubl .

Mr. Davis’ early background includes serving as Minister of Music for Chicago’s Gresham United Methodist Church, and as broadcast assistant for Rev. Milton Brunson’s “Gospel Sounds” radio program, providing the groundwork for his subsequent work with a number of gospel greats, including: DeLois Barrett Campbell & The Barrett Sisters, Edwin, Walter & Tramaine Hawkins; Andrae Crouch, the Richard Smallwood Singers; Albertina Walker; Jessy Dixon; Walter Whitman & the Soul Children of Chicago and many more. Stanley has also served as a member of the Chicago Council on Fine Arts’ Music Advisory Panel; the Illinois Arts Council’s Music Advisory panel; as a gospel music consultant to the Chicago Historical Society, and on the Stellar Awards Advisory Board.

Mr. Davis holds both B.A. in Sociology and Education, and M.A. in Performance Studies degrees from Evanston, Illinois’ prestigious Northwestern University. As a freshman, in May 1971, he co-founded the Northwestern Community Ensemble – then an all-Black music group singing anthems, spirituals, hymns and gospel. The 40+-year group is now a nationally-recognized, multicultural singing aggregation of students that has maintained the formidable black music legacy originally envisioned by its founder, L. Stanley Davis.