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PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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“Rock My Soul” Holds Two Gospel Holidays Concerts

PORTSMOUTH—DECEMBER 5, 2005— Due to popular demand, the interfaith gospel choir **Rock My Soul**, a new local favorite among seacoast gospel fans, will perform two Gospel Holidays Concerts. The first will be held on Friday, December 16, 2005 at the Greenland Community Church, 2 Post Road, Greenland NH. The second will be held on Saturday, December 17, 2005 at the First Parish Federated Church, corner of Main and Academy Streets, South Berwick ME. Both concerts start at 7 pm; doors will open at 6:30 pm. Refreshments will be served during brief intermissions.

Rock My Soul, a 25-member choir that is part of the Diversified Faith Gospel Project, performs music from a variety of American gospel traditions and specializes in authentic, raise-the-rafters gospel songs. The music for the Gospel Holidays Concerts includes an impressive lineup of traditional Christmas carols and lively, gospel-style holiday arrangements, as well as popular, R&B-flavored popular Christmas favorites. Numbers range from unique versions of familiar songs such as “Go Tell It on the Mountain” to the less familiar but no less inspiring “Jesus, O What a Wonderful Child.” In contrast to the high-energy gospel sound are introspective carols such as “Silent Night” and John Lennon’s modern classic “Happy Xmas (War Is Over).” The choir is directed by Cheryl Stromski, former music director at Prescott Park; she will also serve as keyboard accompanist. A full band will be led by nationally known and critically acclaimed acoustic guitarist Brett Hartenbach. Other band members will include Vic Love on bass and Marty Quinn on drums and percussion.

“This is perhaps the most high-energy, dedicated group of singers I’ve ever worked with,” says Stromski. “Their quality and spirit is amazing.”

“I think that the sense of fellowship and commitment this group has is what makes it so exceptional,” adds Dawn Boyer, president of the DFGP. “Knowing that we’re performing this terrific, upbeat music for a purpose — to help audiences feel connected to something positive and joyful, to teach them a bit about the origins and meaning behind gospel music, and to celebrate the strength of the human spirit — gives us all a sense that we’re helping to make things better, one song at a time. What better way to celebrate the season?”

Featured soloists for the evening will include Dawn Boyer, Carolyn Morse-Finn, Mary Kull, Arik Blanchard, Brett Hartenbach, and Jenny Price.

Due to limited seating and high demand, advance ticket purchase is strongly recommended. Advance discount prices are \$12 for adults, \$10 for seniors 65 and over, and \$5 for youth aged 17 and under. (Children aged 5 and under are admitted free of charge.) Tickets may be purchased online at www.dfgp.org or by calling 207-450-8016. Ticket prices at the door will be \$15 for adults, \$12 for seniors, and \$8 for youth 17 and under (children under 5 free).

The Diversified Faith Gospel Project is a nonprofit, nondenominational, interfaith umbrella organization dedicated to raising awareness of and educating audiences about American gospel music and its positive impact on our history and culture. In performing the songs and describing the history behind them, the DFGP hopes to lift hearts, open minds, and bring people closer together to understand the meaning of peace, equality, respect, unity, and justice. A portion of each concert’s proceeds will go toward fostering Greenland Community Church’s and First Parish Federated Church’s music programs. Those who want more information may contact Dawn Boyer, President, at 207-450-8016.

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