

Shirley Murdock in concert

Written by



Doors open at 6pm June 21, for seating for The Cool Presents Shirley Murdock at Bethel University's Benson Hall, 3900 Bethel Drive, St. Paul.

The gospel concert begins at 7pm with opening acts: The Hurst Family, Joyful Noize, Tryenyse Jones, Ronnie Diamond Hoard, and The Wayman Steppers. The concert is hosted by Walter Q Bear Banks of KMOJ Radio.

Murdock grew up in Toledo, Ohio, where she sharpened her gift of ministry in music in the choir of Calvary Baptist Church.

Singer/musician Roger Troutman hired Murdock as a backing singer for his family's band Zapp, which had several hits on Warner Bros. (and its Records imprint). Based on this success, Troutman began recording tracks with Murdock and lead singer Sugarfoot of the Ohio Players, among others, at his Dayton-based recording studio, Troutman Sound Labs. Murdock and Troutman's first chart single was a Warner Bros. single issued as Roger (featuring Shirley Murdock), "Girl, Cut It Out", which charted at number 79 R&B in early 1985.

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Murdock signed with Elektra Records and released "No More," which she co-wrote with Gregory Jackson, Cincinnati, Ohio Funk Keyboardist and member of Zapp. This song made it to number 24 R&B in early 1986. Then came her signature hit, "As We Lay," written by Zapp's Larry Troutman and keyboardist Billy Beck (of the Ohio Players). The tender, melancholy ballad made it to the R&B Top Ten and peaked at number 23 Pop in 1986.

She reconnected to her gospel music foundation when Bishop T.D. James featured her on his 1999 Sacred Love Songs and The Storm is Over CD's, and, signed her to his Dexterity Sounds record label.

In the early 2000s, her gospel release "Home" was nominated for a prestigious Stellar Award. Murdock was also honing her acting skills in Michael Matthews' hit gospel stage play, "Fake Friends," featuring Marvin Sapp, David Peaston, the late Ali Woodson and Gary (Lil'G) Jenkins.

She worked with Tyler Perry in the Perry's hit stage play, "I Know I've Been Changed." She has also worked with Clifton Powell, Jackee Harry, Christopher Williams and David Hollister in both the stage plays and DVDs of "Man Of Her Dreams," and, "3 Ways To Get A Husband," which featured Billy Dee Williams, and Leon and Lenny Williams. She worked with Robin Givens and Johnny Gill in "A Mother's Prayer," and with Cissy Houston in the stage production of "Your Arm's Too Short To Box With God."

Murdock's first live CD/DVD, "Live: The Journey" features Regina Bell, Beverly Crawford and Kelly Price. Murdock said she was honored to sing "The Dream" from this project at the MLK Memorial Dedication Ceremony and at THEARC Theater with the National Symphony Orchestra. "Live: The Journey," her project, Soulfood, and other Shirley Murdock projects are available now online at iTunes, Amazon and in stores everywhere.

Tickets: \$30 and \$35 for main floor seats and \$ 25 for Balcony. For more information, Aquila (952)334-1662. Ticket are available at Urban Lights, Electric Fetus and Digital City.

Patrons who purchase floor seats will receive a CD gift set, while supplies last, which includes Ronnie Diamond's Unity Album.