

Sports, Entertainment, Arts & Media News

Wrap-Up

ASCAP joins with Motown Gospel to celebrate 2026 Stellar Awards nominees at mixer in Charlotte

Grammy Award-Winning Gospel Artist Tasha Cobbs Leonard Honored for Success of “Gracefully Broken” Guests Included JJ Hairston, Jovonta Patton, Kim Person, William Murphy, Nia Allen, and more!

NEW YORK, August 14, 2026 – On August 13, the American Society of Composers, Authors and Publishers (ASCAP), together with Motown Gospel, celebrated the most renowned names in gospel music at the Stellar Awards Nominee Mixer at The Omni Hotel in Charlotte, NC.

The exclusive, invite-only reception kicked off with guests mingling and connecting over hors d’oeuvres and cocktails before ASCAP Vice President, Creative Membership Jonathan ‘JJ’ Jones welcomed attendees. The celebration continued with a special presentation from Motown Gospel Executive Vice President Walter Thomas and the Motown Gospel team honoring Grammy Award-winning artist and ASCAP songwriter Tasha Cobbs Leonard, who was presented with a platinum plaque for her single “Gracefully Broken.” The RIAA certification celebrates the achievement of more than 1 million units sold, reflecting the success and an enduring impact of Leonard’s music.

The room was filled with some of gospel music’s most notable artists, influencers and 2026 Stellar Gospel Music Awards nominees including: JJ Hairston, Jovonta Patton, Kim Person, Mike Teezy, Nia Allen, Maurette Brown Clark, Brandon Camphor and One Way, Dante Pride, Stan Jones, William Murphy and more.

About ASCAP
The American Society of Composers, Authors and Publishers (ASCAP) is a membership asso-



SMILES GALORE: (L-R) Jonathan "JJ" Jones, Vice President-Creative of R&S at ASCAP, Kenneth Leonard Jr., Grammy Award-winning artist and ASCAP songwriter, Tasha Cobbs Leonard, J. Marie Jones, Senior Director, Rhythm & Soul at ASCAP, and Jason Reddick, Director of Creative Services at ASCAP attended the 2026 ASCAP and Motown Gospel Stellar Awards Nominee Mixer on August 13, 2026 in Charlotte, North Carolina. *(Photo by Alston Media Group)*

ciation of more than one million songwriters, composers and music publishers, and represents some of the world’s most talented music creators. Founded and governed by songwriters, composers and publishers, it is the only performing rights organization in the U.S. that operates on a not-for-profit basis. ASCAP licenses a repertory of over 20 million musical works to hundreds of thousands of businesses that use music, including streaming services, cable television, radio and satellite radio and brick and mortar businesses such as retail stores, hotels, clubs, restaurants and bars. ASCAP collects

the licensing fees; identifies, matches and processes trillions of performances every year; and returns nearly 90 cents of every dollar back to its members as royalties. The ASCAP blanket license offers an efficient solution for businesses to legally perform

ASCAP music while respecting the right of songwriters and composers to be paid fairly. ASCAP puts music creators first, advocating for their rights and the value of music on Capitol Hill, driving innovation that moves the industry forward, building

community and providing the resources and support that creators need to succeed in their careers. Learn more and stay in touch at www.ascap.com, on X (formerly Twitter) and Instagram @ASCAP and on Facebook.

The Potter House is redefining what a community owes its young people

The Dallas-based church to pay for future engineer's first semester; furnish dorm rooms for foster youth, and will partner on HBCU scholarships in a Back-to-School season placing Dallas at the forefront of America's higher education movement

DALLAS, Aug. 12, 2026 /PRNewswire/ -- This back-to-school season, The Potter's House of Dallas, Inc. (TPH) is closing the gap between ambition and access for young



people who have been left on the margins of America's higher education system and doing it in a way that no policy or government program has managed on its own. In a country where only 8% to 12% of foster youth earn a college degree and 87% of executives report critical workforce skill shortages, the cost of inaction falls hardest on the communities least equipped to absorb it.

Faith-based organization stepping up during rising higher education costs as millions of

Please see sports-Ent. 5

Wilson County-Tennessee State Fair announces heat precautions for fair goers from sports page 1

The Fair encourages all guests to prepare for the heat, stay hydrated, drink plenty of water, take frequent breaks and be aware of the signs and symptoms of heat-related illness.

grounds. With plenty of activities, exhibits, demonstrations and stages located indoors, guests are encouraged to enjoy the air-conditioned buildings and shaded areas during the hottest parts of the day and stay for the cooler evening hours.

The Fair encourages all guests to prepare for the heat, stay hydrated, drink plenty of water, take frequent breaks and be aware of the signs and symptoms of heat-related illness.

Carnival Update
The Fair gates will open as scheduled at 10 a.m. Reithoffer Shows Carnival will open at 1 p.m. Saturday armbands will now be valid ALL DAY, rather than ending at 5 p.m. giving

guests more flexibility to enjoy the rides later in the day as temperatures cool.

Come enjoy the shade, air-conditioned buildings, exhibits and activities during the day, then experience even more of the Fair as the sun goes down!

The Wilson County – Tennessee State Fair will continue to monitor conditions and make adjustments as necessary. Guests are encouraged to continue checking the Fair’s website and social media channels for the latest updates.

The Wilson County – Tennessee State Fair continues through Saturday, Aug. 22, 2026, at the James E. Ward Agricultural Center in Lebanon, Tennessee

Link to Elijah Peel Movie Trailer on YouTube at:
<https://youtu.be/MVUBDa398Zw?si=6KK6C6JT2WZ1CNHv>



BRITTANY HOWARD
AS CARLA

CHI CHI MASON
AS CHRISTINE

ANTONIO LAWSON SR
AS REV. GATEWOOD

INFINITY CHANELL
AS BENITA

A

FAMILY AFFAIR!

GOSPEL STAGE PLAY

SEPTEMBER
18TH — 20TH

EVERY FAMILY HAS A
STORY, THIS ONE NEEDS
A MIRACLE

THE EVERGREEN THEATER
1705 POPLAR AVE MEMPHIS TN

SHOWTIMES

FRIDAY
SEPTEMBER 18
7PM

SATURDAY
SEPTEMBER 19
6PM

SUNDAY
SEPTEMBER 20
2PM

TICKETS ARE ON SALE NOW!

PAYMENT & MORE INFO:
WWW.TBPRODUCTIONS.NET

CRYSTAL STEWART-MORGAN
AS GRANDMA BETTY

WRITTEN BY
MILONY JENKINS

DIRECTED BY
BISHOP ANTONIO LAWSON