



**GOSPEL MUSIC'S GREATEST NIGHT,
THE 41ST STELLAR GOSPEL MUSIC AWARDS,
SET TO IMPACT CHARLOTTE, NC ON AUGUST 15TH**

**TASHA COBBS LEONARD SET TO RECEIVE
THE ARETHA FRANKLIN ICON AWARD**

**PASTOR MIKE JR. SET TO RECEIVE
THE THOMAS A. DORSEY MOST NOTABLE ACHIEVEMENT AWARD**

**THE 41ST STELLAR GOSPEL MUSIC AWARDS ANNOUNCES STAR-STUDED
PERFORMANCE LINEUP FEATURING LE'ANDRIA JOHNSON, JEKALYN CARR, DARREL
WALLS, JOHN P. KEE, TYE TRIBBETT FEAT. ABLAZE, JUSTCORDELL, LISA KNOWLES-
SMITH & THE BROWN SINGERS, PJ MORTON, & MORE**

CEREMONY HOST KIRK FRANKLIN SET TO DELIVER SPECIAL PERFORMANCE

**41ST STELLAR GOSPEL MUSIC AWARDS SET TO
PREMIERE ON THE STELLAR NETWORK
SATURDAY, AUGUST 29TH AT 8PM/7C; ENCORE PRESENTATION AT 10PM/9C**

**41ST STELLAR GOSPEL MUSIC AWARDS
SET TO AIR SUNDAY, AUGUST 30TH AT 8PM/7C ON BET**

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Today, **Central City Productions** announced the first wave of performers and special honorees for the **41st Annual Stellar Gospel Music Awards**, hosted by **Kirk Franklin**. Under this year's theme, "**Feels Like Home**," gospel music's greatest night will bring together the genre's most celebrated artists, trailblazers, and rising stars for an unforgettable evening of worship, inspiration, and world-class performances. The ceremony will take place on **Saturday, August 15, 2026**, in Charlotte, North Carolina, at the Spectrum Center. Tickets are available now at **StellarAwards.com**.

The **41st Annual Stellar Gospel Music Awards** will deliver an unforgettable night of music and celebration with an all-star lineup of performances from **Aaron Cole, Childlike CiCi, Darrel Walls, Jekalyn Carr, Jevon Dewand & The Trap Starz** featuring **Isaac Carree** and **Jazze Pha**, **JustCordell**, **John P. Kee**, **Le'Andria Johnson**, **Lisa Knowles-Smith & The Brown Singers**, **Melvin Crispell III**, **PJ Morton**, **Tye Tribbett** featuring **ABLAZE**, and **Vincent Bohanan & SOV**. Spanning traditional gospel, contemporary worship, choir music, and genre-blending collaborations, this year's performance lineup reflects the depth, diversity, and continued evolution of gospel music while celebrating



the artists who are inspiring audiences around the world through faith, excellence, and powerful musical ministry.

This year's ceremony will also recognize two of gospel music's most influential voices with special honors celebrating their extraordinary impact on the genre. **Tasha Cobbs Leonard** will be presented with the **Aretha Franklin Icon Award**, honoring her remarkable career, global influence, and powerful legacy as one of the most transformative worship leaders and recording artists of her generation. Additionally, **Pastor Mike Jr.** will receive the **Thomas A. Dorsey Most Notable Achievement Award**, recognizing his groundbreaking contributions to gospel music, chart-topping success, and unwavering commitment to expanding the reach of the Gospel through innovation and ministry. Together, these prestigious honors celebrate two artists whose music, leadership, and faith continue to inspire millions around the world.

"This honor means more to me than I can fully express. Gospel music has given me a place to share my faith, my testimony, and every part of my journey, and I have never taken that privilege lightly. To receive the Aretha Franklin Icon Award is deeply humbling, not only as a celebration of what God has allowed me to accomplish, but also as a reminder of the responsibility that comes with this platform. I'm grateful to my family, my team, the gospel community, and every person who has allowed this music to become part of their lives," shares **Tasha Cobbs Leonard**.

Pastor Mike Jr., shares, "I'm truly honored to receive the Thomas A. Dorsey Most Notable Achievement Award. This recognition is bigger than me, it's a testament to God's faithfulness and the incredible people who have supported this journey. I pray my music and ministry continue to inspire hope, faith, and purpose for generations to come."

The 41st Stellar Gospel Music Awards proudly recognizes **Procter & Gamble (P&G)** as the event's Title Sponsor. **General Motors/Chevrolet** serves as the Presenting Sponsor of the *Artist of the Year Award*, while **Walmart** is the Presenting Sponsor of the *Song of the Year Award*. **Tide** proudly presents the *HBCU Choir of the Year Award*, and **Olay** serves as the Presenting Sponsor of the *Albertina Walker Female Artist of the Year Award*. **St. Jude Children's Research Hospital** joins this year's celebration in honoring Tasha Cobbs Leonard as the recipient of the prestigious *Aretha Franklin Icon Award*. Additional support is provided by **Walt Disney World Resort**, **AT&T**, **Johnson & Johnson**, **Rhythm and Rise Cruise**, the **Charlotte Regional Visitors Authority (CRVA)**, **Mecklenburg County**, **WBTV** and **Praise 102 Charlotte**.

The 41st Stellar Gospel Music Awards show is Executive Produced by **Don Jackson** with **Jennifer J. Jackson** serving as Producer and Executive in Charge of Production; **Michael A. Johnson** as Producer and Director, **Erin Johnson-Pressley** as Talent Producer, and **Daniel Moore** as Music Director.

The Greatest Night in Gospel Music, The 41st Annual Stellar Gospel Music Awards will premiere on **The Stellar Network**, available on Charter Spectrum and Verizon Fios, with the broadcast debuting on **Saturday, August 29, 2026 at 8:00 p.m. ET** with an encore



presentation at **10 p.m. EST** (check your local provider for channel availability). The celebration will make its national cable premiere on **BET** on **Sunday, August 30, 2026, at 8:00 p.m. ET** and **10:30 p.m. ET** before expanding to audiences nationwide through **broadcast television syndication** from **September 5 through September 27, 2026**. In Charlotte, **WBTV (CBS)** will serve as the local television broadcast partner. **Bounce TV** will air the ceremony on **Saturday, September 5 at 1:00 p.m. ET**.

The 41st Stellar Gospel Music Awards taping tickets are available now at stellarawards.com. A full list of the 41st annual nominees can be found on the official Stellar Awards website. For more information, please visit stellarawards.com and join the conversation using the hashtag **#TheStellars**.

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ABOUT THE STELLAR NETWORK

Launched in April of 2023 under the management of Central City Productions, Inc., The Stellar Network fills the void for a family-friendly, entertainment, lifestyle network targeting Black audiences. The Stellar Network is the first in uplifting content with positive, inspirational, and entertainment programming. Stellar's goal is to be the most preferred network to Black audiences in the country. The Stellar Network can be found on Charter Spectrum, Verizon Fios, Vizio & Vizio WatchFree+ (app), and Xumo Play. For more information visit www.stellartv.com

ABOUT CENTRAL CITY PRODUCTIONS

Founded in 1970 by Don Jackson, Chicago-based Central City Productions, Inc. is a national broadcast television producer, programmer, and syndicator of its exclusively owned African-American programming. Celebrating over 55 years of broadcasting Black excellence with uplifting and entertaining original television content, CCP's award-winning television programs include the Black Music Honors (www.blackmusichonors.com), Stellar Tribute to the Holidays, Black College Quiz Show Series (www.blackcollegequiz.com), America's Black Forum (www.americasblackforum.com), Mentoring Kings and Queens, and Black History Honors among many others. For more information, [visit www.ccptv.com](http://www.ccptv.com).

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