



**GOSPEL RECORDING ARTIST VICKIE WINANS TO PERFORM AT
CIVIL RIGHTS MUSEUM'S "CELEBRATION OF UNITY"**

The celebration will also include an interfaith mass choir

GREENSBORO, N.C., (May 31, 2013) – The International Civil Rights Center & Museum (ICRCM) is inviting everyone to join in a commemoration of “Juneteenth” with *A Celebration of Unity* service on Sunday, June 16th at 4:00 p.m. The event will be held at Mt. Zion Baptist Church, 1301 Alamance Church Road in Greensboro. The headliner for the event is renowned gospel recording artist Vickie Winans, who will perform arrangements from her well known and well loved repertoire. Also featured on the program is a culturally diverse mass choir from assembled from vocalists from the many houses of worship in our area. Ms. Winans will sing her final selection with the mass choir.

“Juneteenth”—June 19, 1865—is the date when the last enslaved men, women, and children in Texas learned about their emancipation from bondage. This was more than two months after the end of the Civil War, and more than two and one-half years since President Abraham Lincoln’s “Emancipation Proclamation” of January 1, 1863. While the original celebrations took root in Texas, today “Juneteenth” observances are held across the United States to celebrate the ultimate civil right—freedom.

“Our Juneteenth celebration calls to memory the work for freedom, justice, peace and integrity which started when people began to reject their enslavement. We also recall the enshrined words of Abraham Lincoln in the Emancipation Proclamation when he stated—‘And upon this act, sincerely believed to be an act of justice, warranted by the Constitution, upon military necessity, I invoke the considerate judgment of mankind, and the gracious favor of Almighty God.’ That’s the work we are celebrating,” said steering committee member Rev. Randall Keeney of the St. Barnabas Episcopal Church of Greensboro.

“A Celebration of Unity” is free to the public. However there will be a donation opportunity to raise funds for the launching of the ICRCM’s new education initiative, “Building a Better America through Core Democratic Values,” that will bring 4th, 5th, 8th, and 11th grade students from across the state to the Museum to explore the significance of equal protection under the law, justice, liberty, and other treasured concepts that served as foundations in the quest for civil rights.

The following Wednesday, June 19th, 6:00 a.m.-6:00 p.m., ICRCM will host a “Juneteenth Telethon and Radio-thon” with broadcasts by WFMY-TV2 and WQBH from the lobby of the

Museum at 134 South Elm Street. Civil rights icon Rev. Jesse Jackson, Sr., the 1960 lunch counter sit-in leader Franklin McCain, Sr., Grammy Award winning vocalist Fantasia, and veteran television news anchor Sandra Hughes will be on hand to for this event.

For more information please contact Special Events Coordinator Pamela Glass by telephone at (336)274-9199 ext 235 or *via* email at pglass@sitinmovement.org.

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Backgrounder

Vicki Winans, Gospel Recording Artist

Vicki was born October 18, 1953 in [Detroit, Michigan](#). She is the 7th of 12 children and began singing in church, the International Gospel Center, at the age of eight. She is as an award-winning gospel recording artist, producer, director, songwriter, actress and comedienne. She is also the President of her own record label, Destiny Joy Records. She is the mother of two hit producers and singers, Mario Winans and Marvin Winans, Jr.

Vicki Winans is one of the best-known artists in gospel music with signature songs such as "How I Got Over," "Shake Yourself Loose," "As Long as I Got King Jesus" and "We Shall Behold Him." Winans has been profiled in Ebony magazine, USA Today and the Associated Press. Her profile on BET's Sunday morning TV series, "Lift Every Voice," remains the most watched episode in the program's history with more than 800,000 viewers.

Building a Better America –An Educational Initiative

At the very time that school districts are cutting back on providing educational experiences that require travel to vital cultural and historic sites that are part of the state's (and indeed the nation's) history, we will secure funding to underwrite the admissions of 112,000 social studies students in grades 4, 5, 8, and 11 from across the state to explore ICRCM's state of the art 16-gallery experience, *The Battlegrounds*. This 15,000 square feet exhibition—an engaging journey through American civil rights history—features audio/video narratives, photographs, artifacts, vintage newsreel footage, video reenactments, and interactive components that document, with sensitivity, efforts to dismantle racial segregation *via* non-violent struggles for social change. The "Building a Better America" educational initiative also includes pre- and post-visitation lesson plans and teacher training sessions on the effective use of the curriculum materials.

International Civil Rights Center & Museum

The International Civil Rights Center & Museum—a historic landmark, exhibiting and collecting institution, and educational service organization—promotes an understanding of the struggles for equality, justice and freedom in the United States and across the world. The 45,000 square-foot Museum is located in the former F.W. Woolworth building. It was here that four courageous students from North Carolina A&T State University initiated the 1960 sit-in protest at the segregated whites-only lunch counter that reignited the civil rights movement. Founded by Melvin "Skip" Alston and Earl Jones in 1993 under the auspices of the Sit-in Movement, Inc., the Museum complex features interactive exhibitions, a gallery for changing exhibitions, auditorium, and archival center. The Museum publishes a monthly calendar of its educational programs.