



Lisa Toussaint, music manager, U of T Gospel Choir



What group has performed at the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame with two musical sisters at the helm?



The University of Toronto Gospel Choir.

Over the past six years the University of Toronto Gospel Choir has been growing in popularity. Now, with two sisters at the helm, the success is undeniable. Music manager Lisa Toussaint and business manager Rhonda Toussaint oversee 45 singers, approximately half of whom are U of T grads and half are current U of T students.



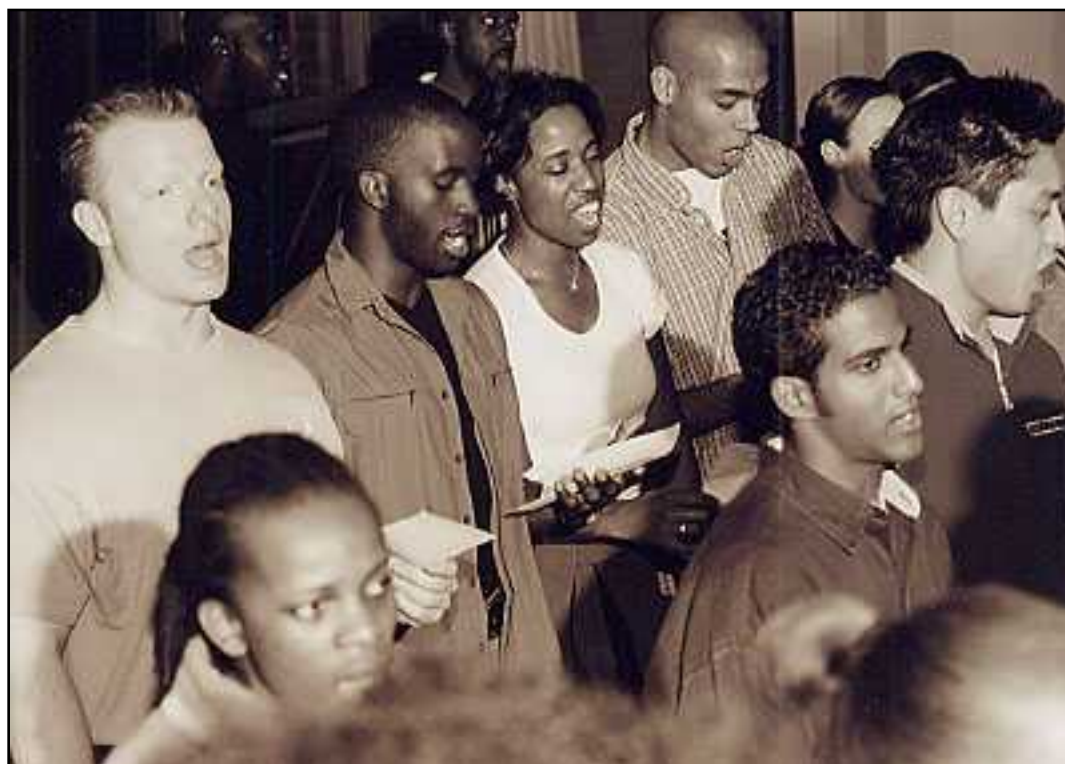
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Rhonda is a graduate of the [Faculty of Arts and Science](#) and says singers who join the choir are looking for more meaning in their lives. According to Lisa, it's as much about fellowship as singing. "You have to believe what you sing and live what you believe. We're a tight knit group; we don't just come together for two hours and leave, says Lisa, who also studies at the [Faculty of Music](#).

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The choir rehearses every Friday evening at [Victoria College](#), and "people from the street hear 45 big voices in a small room and can't resist the temptation to drop in. We welcome them," says Rhonda.



Choir members in rehearsal

In honour of Black History Month last February, to highlight the different forms of African American culture, the group performed at the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame in Cleveland, Ohio. Their success was an invitation to come back. Their 6th annual "Colours of Christmas" performance at Massey Hall featured Bill Medley, Marilyn McCoo, Roberta Flack, and Peabo Bryson. The choir has also appeared in a CBS television movie with Anne Bancroft.

Their annual Christmas benefit concert is set for Dec. 9, 7: 30 p.m. at the Calvary Church, 746 Pape Avenue (Danforth and Pape) in Toronto. Audience members are invited to bring something for the food bank, and cash donations are given to various charities.

This May the choir has been invited to tour Germany with a stop at the Stockholm Music festival in Sweden. Next year they will sing in the orphanages and prisons of the Bahamas. "We want to sing to everybody, even the less fortunate. We want to make that connection with our audience. We do what we can do," say the sisters.

For more information about the U of T Gospel choir, call 416/614-4872, email: info@utgc.org or visit their website at <http://utgc.sa.utoronto.ca/>



(profile by [Victoria Hadden](#): first posted

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