

Jessy Dixon and the Dixon Singers to join UCSD gospel choir in concert to commemorate birthday of Dr. Martin Luther King

January 5, 1979

Jessy Dixon and the Dixon Singers, considered to be one of the finest gospel groups in America, will join with the University of California, San Diego gospel choir in a concert Monday, January 15, to commemorate the birthday of Dr. Martin Luther King.

The concert will begin at 8 p.m. in the Mandeville Auditorium on the UC San Diego campus. Tickets are \$3 for all students and \$5 for general admission. They may be purchased at the UCSD Central Box Office, 452-4559.

Dixon has been called "Probably the most imaginative musician in gospel." He was raised in San Antonio but was brought to Chicago by James Cleveland as accompanist and lead singer for Cleveland's Gospel Chimes. In Chicago, Dixon began to write songs and organized his own Community Choir from which evolved the Dixon Singers.

The success of such recordings as "These Old Heavy Burdens," "Sit At His Feet and Be Blessed," and "God Never Fails" enabled the Dixon Singers to go on tour. The four-member group has sung in store front churches, Carnegie Hall and Madison Square Garden and at the Newport Jazz Festival. They have twice toured America, Europe and Japan with singer Paul Simon and performed on Simon's album "Live Rhymin," recorded live during one of the tours.

Dixon is an accomplished pianist and organist and has played for Mahalia Jackson and Marion Williams. In 1970 he was named Gospel Artist of the Year at Madison Square Garden.

UC San Diego's gospel choir, under the direction of assistant professor Cecil Lytle, is a group of 40 young singers which has appeared frequently throughout San Diego in community churches, schools and hospitals.

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