

The Museum of Modern Art

11 West 53 Street, New York, N.Y. 10019 Tel. 245-3200 Cable: Modernart

49
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FOR RELEASE
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Reverend James Cleveland and his Gospel Singers will give tonight's concert (Thursday, July 25) at The Museum of Modern Art, 11 West 53 Street, at 8:30. Reverend James Cleveland will be joined by Robert Roberts, Charles Barnett (piano), Clyde Brown, Odessa McCastle, The O'Neil Twins, Joe Marshall (drums), and Leonard Gaskin (bass).

This summer's Jazz in the Garden series, directed by Ed Bland, features a variety of contemporary musical styles including some of the various attempts at synthesizing jazz and rock. The Gabor Szabo Quintet will give the August 1 concert. The concert to have been given by the Clark Terry Quintet on June 27 was cancelled because of rain, and has been rescheduled for August 29.

The entire Museum is open Thursday evening until 10 throughout the summer. The regular Museum admission, \$1.50, admits visitors to galleries and to 8 p.m. film showings in the Auditorium; there is no charge for Museum members. Admission to jazz concerts is an additional 75 cents for members and public.

As in previous Jazz in the Garden concerts, tickets for each concert are on sale in the Museum lobby from the preceding Saturday until the time of the Thursday evening performance. A few chairs are available on the garden terraces, but most of the audience stands or sits on the ground. Cushions may be rented for 25 cents. Beer and sandwiches are available for concert patrons. When a concert is cancelled because of rain, tickets are honored for the following Thursday. Other Museum activities continue as announced.

Reverend James Cleveland has been called "the male Mahalia Jackson." He is considered by many to be the most exciting performer in the music business today. His voice is strong, brutal, and charming. Along with Professor Alex Bradford, he is considered one of the major influences in the formation of Ray Charles' singing style.

"Peace Be Still," "I Stood on the Banks," "If I Had a Hammer," "Without a Song," and "Two Wings" are some of the selections that James Cleveland has recorded. He has sold in excess of one million albums, and is the top gospel recording star. A

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brilliant pianist, composer, and arranger, Reverend Cleveland was at one time an assistant pastor of a church in Detroit.

Gospel music, jazz, and rhythm and blues are the three categories of American Negro music. Gospel, more than jazz and blues, is an underground music -- well-known to negroes, while being relatively unknown to the larger pop audience. Its influence has been widely felt in the legions of soul singers who have graced the pop music scene since the advent of rock in 1954. When one speaks of soul music, one must go to the fountainhead. That fountainhead is gospel music, and Reverend James Cleveland is king of the gospel singers.

Additional information available from Elizabeth Shaw, Director, and Joan Wiggins, Assistant, Department of Public Information, The Museum of Modern Art, 11 West 53 Street, New York, N.Y. 10019. 245-3200.