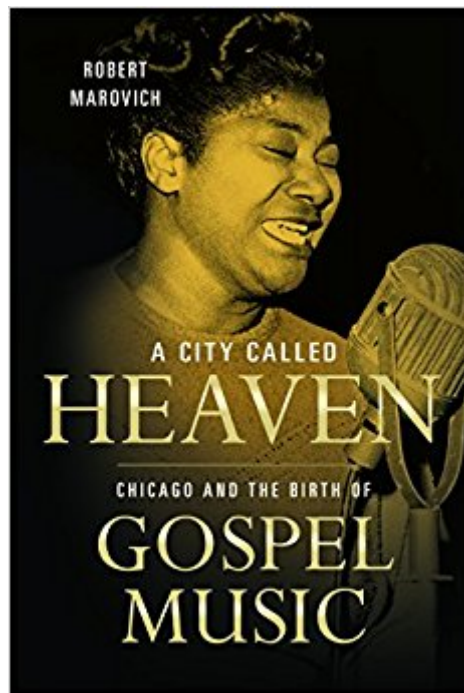




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A City Called Heaven: Chicago And The Birth Of Gospel Music (Music In American Life)



Synopsis

In *A City Called Heaven*, gospel announcer and music historian Robert Marovich shines a light on the humble origins of a majestic genre and its indispensable bond to the city where it found its voice: Chicago. Marovich follows gospel music from early hymns and camp meetings through the Great Migration that brought it to Chicago. In time, the music grew into the sanctified soundtrack of the city's mainline black Protestant churches. In addition to drawing on print media and ephemera, Marovich mines hours of interviews with nearly fifty artists, ministers, and historians--as well as discussions with relatives and friends of past gospel pioneers--to recover many forgotten singers, musicians, songwriters, and industry leaders. He also examines how a lack of economic opportunity bred an entrepreneurial spirit that fueled gospel music's rise to popularity and opened a gate to social mobility for a number of its practitioners. As Marovich shows, gospel music expressed a yearning for freedom from earthly pains, racial prejudice, and life's hardships. In the end, it proved to be a sound too mighty and too joyous for even church walls to hold.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

"Essential."--Choice "A City Called Heaven is a valuable resource that points to the many voices that were important to the success of gospel music. With his text, Marovich extends an invitation to readers and gospel music lovers to celebrate the beautiful and spirit-filled contributions of those who paved the gospel highway from Chicago to heaven and back."--Black Grooves

“Opens a window on an important part of 20th-century Americana that has been little explored heretofore.”--Library Journal “Robert Marovich’s magisterial account explores how the encounter with urban life infused gospel music with blues and jazz, without displacing old habits of ecstatic worship brought from African and baptized by encountering Christianity.”--Milwaukee Shepherd Express “[An] exhaustively researched history of this important Chicago musical export. . . . Here, in Marovich’s important work, are the lesser-known stories of the originators who created a wholly original sound of holiness in Chicago that reverberates today.” •Chicago Tribune “An impressive, comprehensive combination history, anthology and analysis of black gospel music. A City Called Heaven • Chicago And The Birth Of Gospel Music blends interviews, character studies, rare photographs and numerous magnificent stories and encounters to provide readers with a wide-ranging look at this vital, constantly evolving idiom.” •Nashville Scene

The music that helped free a people and lift a nation

Being a Dutch Fan of Old School Black Gospel, nit only from Chicago, but hey, isn’t always easy, because they’re not so many fans here and even in the whole of Europe, it’s a ‘foreign’ thing. I’ve learned a lot by scanning the www, following dedicated YouTubers as Rowoches c.s. and reading Heilbut and Just Mahalia Baby. That isn’t much, and life experience of the impact and the beauty of church, praise and service is unknown to me. This book is a goldmine, because every page is packed with information, names and anecdotes, and all of this brought to us with love and dedication from a formidable writer. I’ll cherish it, in my small Gospel library, and will read it again and again, if only becauae its so full of knowledge. I may a lifetime to digest it all, but I will! Thank you, Bob Marovich.

If Erik Larson’s “Devil in the White City” uncovered the dark side of Chicago, Bob Marovich’s “A City Called Heaven” casts a heavenly light on African Americans whose singing of the good news helped transform their trials and tribulations into a potent force that would forever change American music.

Awesome, well researched book by one of the top gospel historians of the last two decades. Robert really did the world of musicology a great service when he added this book to the public lexicon.

This book offers an insightful glimpse into the origins of gospel music. Robert Marovich peels back the intricate layers of this genre that has woven its way into the American fabric. Marovich's book seems very well researched and is served up with an adequate dose of respect and admiration for the pillars of gospel music. A must-have for any music lover.

Very enlightening and very easy to read - this is a must- have for anyone who wants to be knowledgeable about the history of the Golden Age of Gospel.

Not quite finished. Very informative!

This book is a part of our churches history. First Church of Deliverance. A member since birth 4 generation s.

Great read

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