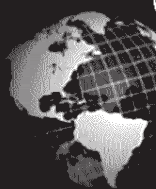


Lil' Blair & The Fantastic Violinaires

of Detroit, MI

www.violinaires.net

GLOBAL TALENT BOOKING AGENCY & MANAGEMENT COMPANY



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-- Lil' Blair & The Violinaires --

The Violinaires have been an institution in Detroit gospel music since 1952, and have had several lead singers, notably including Wilson Pickett, founder Willie Banks, the legendary Robert Blair (who led the group until his death in 2001), and Blair's protege and current lead singer & leader, Titus "Lil' Blair" Stallworth.

The original version of the Violinaires was formed in 1952. Not long afterward, Providence Thomas and Raymond, Mississippi native Willie Banks joined, and the group adopted the name the Violinaires, said to be named after seeing an image of a bass violin on the front cover of a music book.

The Violinaires made their recording debut in 1953, when "Another Soldier Gone" appeared on the local Drummond imprint. The following year, it was re-released for the secular market under the name the Question Marks by Swing Time Records, and this crossover attempt led the vocal group to pursue R&B in the late '50s. At the peak of their R&B phase, the group featured Wilson Pickett on lead, recording the 1957 single "Sign of the Judgment."

By the time the Violinaires signed with the Chess subsidiary Checker in 1964, the group returned to gospel music and featured Robert Blair as the lead, and their recording career took off! Some of the group's hits from this time included Old Time Religion, Stand By Me, If We Never Meet Again and Three Pictures of the Lord -- The group's penetrating treble harmonies made such an impact on the genre that gospel quartets emulate it today. The group stayed with Checker throughout the '60s and moved to Jewel in the '70s.

In the '80s, the Violinaires became the Fantastic Violinaires and signed to Malaco Records. This lineup still featured Blair when the group moved to Atlantic International Records to release the successful album The Pink Tornado. During the '90s, the group recorded for Paula, Grammercy, Gospel Jubilee, and Universal Music.

Their hit-filled Malaco albums included The Fantastic Violinaires Featuring Robert Blair (1983), Talk to Jesus (1984), and Today is the Day (1985). The group recorded for Malaco again in the new millennium, most notably in 2013, when it released Reunited Live in Richmond, Featuring Titus "Lil' Blair" Stallworth for Malaco's 4 Winds imprint.

While singing with the Violinaires, Titus "Lil' Blair" Stallworth was given the nickname by his mentor and legendary gospel music Hall of Famer, Robert Earl Blair, as a forshadowing that Lil' Blair would one day take over the reigns. Robert Blair said of his young understudy, "Titus sounded so much like me that it was scary". After the passing of Robert Blair in 2001, young Titus accepted the call to carry on in his mentor's name.

The Violinaires have sung in churches, festivals, concert halls, and civic centers, and with sacred and secular artists alike—from Pastor Shirley Caesar to the Mannhattans. The quartet even inspired the Rolling Stones' Mick Jagger and Keith Richards to write songs for them.

D.A. Johnson, Executive Director, MALACO's Gospel Division, stated that "...I am excited that he (Lil' Blair) has chosen to honor the Quartet legend and keep his legacy alive by taking everything he had learned from him and applying it to his own unique ministry in which Robert Blair himself gave his blessings and passed the mantle to, as his true apparent heir." Still continuing the high falsetto stratospheric vocals, the group has continued the legacy, as well as continued to develop their own unique sound and style!

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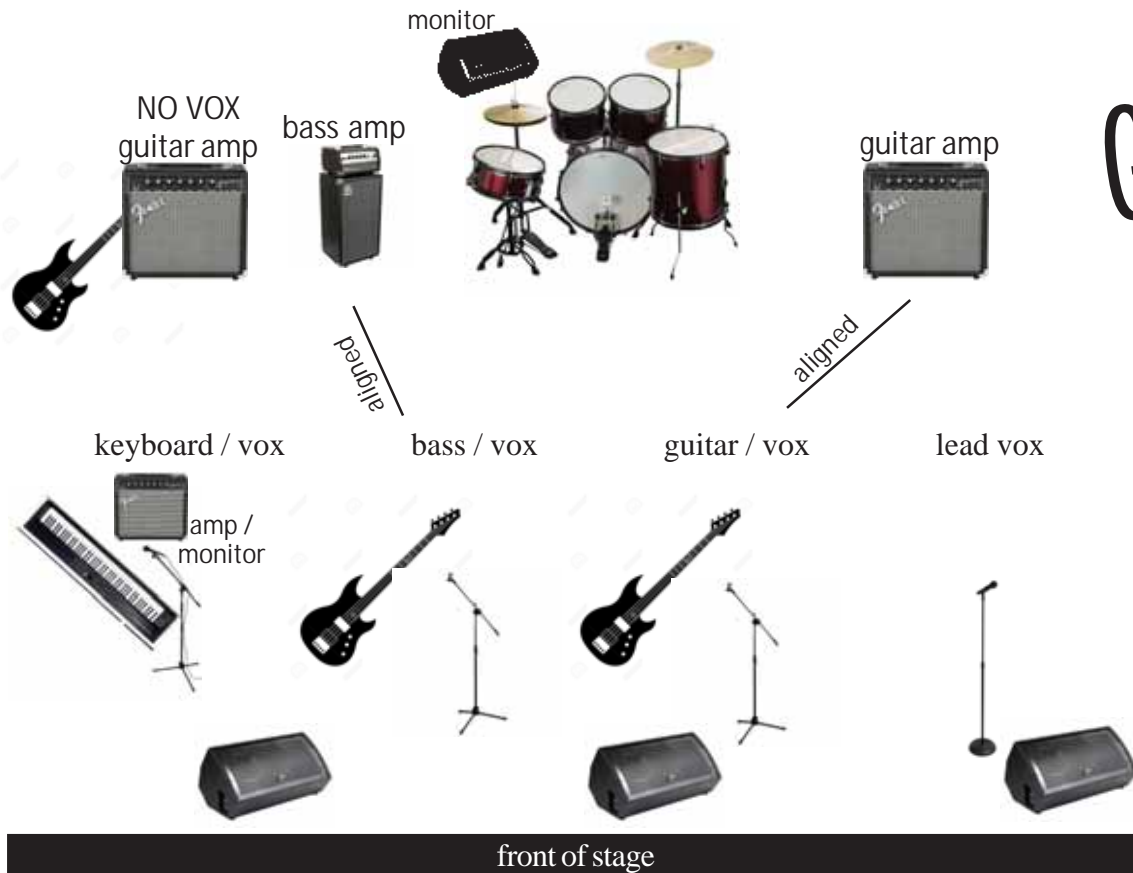




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Lil' Blair & The Violinaires (stage plot)



The
Gospel
Legends
Tour

Will be traveling with:

- * guitars / bass
- * their wired microphones
- * mic stands
- * bass amp
- * keyboard
- * keyboard stand
- * guitar stands

Please provide:

- * 2 guitar amps (Fender, etc.)
- * 1 keyboard amp
- * drum kit (7-piece)
- * stage monitors (5?)
- * mic stands
- * stool or chair

(please let us know of any items you can't provide)

Technical contact is:

William Martin:
336-402-3727

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