

Local DC Gospel Group Drops Debut Album

By Robert Mitchell

At a recent gospel music recognition ceremony, singers, musicians, praise leaders and congregants patiently waited to be blessed with another inspirational cover of a hit song by one of the two industry giants, perhaps Kirk Franklin or Fred Hammond. No doubt, hit songs performed by talented gospel singers and musicians move the crowd to get their praise on, but soon the audiences may start to focus more on the music rather than the unsigned artist looking for exposure.

Enter the blazing new DC-based gospel group Quest, whose original contemporary songs, stage presence and infectious grooves electrified the saints at Greater Tiedstone Baptist Church, in Northwest, Washington, DC. Swing-beats, flanging guitar and keyboard riffs in original songs like "Surrender," and "I Need You" reminded listeners of how much the Holy Spirit is needed in everyday life. Other, slower melodies on songs like "Your Love" and "Alright" comfort the tired and weary with soft, soothing percussions graced with pleasant piano and smooth guitar progressions. With an undying love for music, dance combined with their God-given talent, two life-long friends, Damion P. Roy Sr. and Arkese Gaskins, Sr., held on to their dreams of success and helped form the five-member band whose inspiration melodies are sure to inspire you to get up and dance. "We've been together since we were boys growing up in Southeast," lead singer, Damion P. Roy, Sr. said.

According to Quest Music Ministry, LLC, the group's unique sound is a clever mix of different music styles and expressions. "Their music introduces audiences to intricate harmonies, brilliant orchestrations and explosive tracks. Their original compositions take you on a journey encompassing a myriad of musical styles, effortlessly marring Jazz, R&B, Soul and Gospel melodies for a contemporary sound that appeals to all Christians. There's a song for everyone on this album."

The debut album, "Introducing Quest," was released at an official CD release event featuring Quest and other artists at the Lively Stone Worship Center in Landover, Maryland.