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Grand Rapids to Welcome Multiple-Grammy Award Winner Bill Gaither & Gaither Vocal Band Spectacular Evening of Music Comes to DeVos Performance Hall on July 20

Grand Rapids — Multi-Grammy Award-winner Bill Gaither will host a spectacular evening of music, laughter and encouragement featuring the talent of the prestigious <u>Gaither Vocal Band</u> on Friday, July 20, 2018, at 7:00 PM in SMG-managed <u>DeVos Performance Hall</u>.

The Gaither Vocal Band will share timeless gospel classics, as well as refreshing, inspiring new favorites embraced by audiences of all ages and backgrounds. Few events have the ability unite individuals from all walks of life the way Gaither concerts do. "The longer I live, the more I learn to appreciate the here and now - this moment - this place in life - this group of people with whom I am privileged to collaborate," states Gaither Vocal Band founder and bass singer, Bill Gaither.

Tickets will go on sale to the general public on Tuesday, May 29 at 10:00 AM. Tickets will be available at the DeVos Place® and Van Andel Arena® box offices, online at <u>Ticketmaster.com</u>, and charge by phone at 1-800-745-3000. See Ticketmaster for current pricing and availability.

This past fall, the Gaither Vocal Band celebrated the release of their brand new recording, *We Have This Moment*, produced by famed country and gospel music performer and studio musician Gordon Mote. The recording is a musical snapshot of a special season for this lauded quintet, featuring Gaither, Wes Hampton, Adam Crabb, Todd Suttles and Reggie Smith, the newest addition to the iconic group.

Year after year, Bill Gaither has brought the Homecoming Tour into cities worldwide, performing to packed houses with collective attendance figures exceeding a million people and being ranked among the top concerts for tickets sold worldwide in any music genre during the past two decades. Each concert showcases gospel music's finest talent and draws new listeners with every city. Joining The Gaither Vocal Band for this special evening will be talented female vocalist, Charlotte Ritchie and powerful male vocalist Gene McDonald, as well as guitarist and comedian, Kevin Williams.

Gaither continues to be delighted by audiences' response to the concerts, now more than 40 years after he quit his day job as a teacher: "I've always said it all starts with a great song, and we are fortunate that each concert includes great songs that have stood the test of time. With all the musical choices that are available now, there is still a special place for the joy and optimism that reside in Gospel music. Good news never gets old."

Named ASCAP's Songwriters of the Century, Bill and Gloria Gaither have written more than 700 popular gospel songs throughout their multi-decade career, including favorite standards "He Touched Me," Because He Lives," and "There's Just Something About That Name." Since 1992, when Gaither began recording the celebrated Homecoming series of DVDs and CDs, most every volume has gone gold or platinum with sales totaling approximately 100 million volumes. The programs appear regularly on television networks around the world.

This evening with the **Gaither Vocal Band** will celebrate timeless themes of faith, unity and eternal hope through a variety of music the whole family will enjoy. The concert will begin at **7:00pm**. Complete information, including ticket pricing, is available by visiting www.gaither.com or www.premierproductions.com. Artists interviews may be obtained by submitting request to writersink@att.net.

About SMG

DeVos Performance Hall is managed by SMG. SMG provides management services to more than 230 public assembly facilities including convention and exhibition centers, arenas, stadiums, theaters, performing arts centers, amphitheaters, equestrian facilities, science centers and a variety of other venues. With facilities across the globe, SMG manages more than 15 million square feet of exhibition space and more than 1.5 million sports and entertainment seats. As the recognized global industry leader, SMG provides venue management, sales, marketing, event booking and programming; construction and design consulting; and pre-opening services for such landmark facilities as McCormick Place & Soldier Field in Chicago, Moscone Convention Center in San Francisco, Houston's NRG Park and the Mercedes-Benz Superdome in New Orleans. SMG also offers food and beverage operations through its concessions and catering companies, currently serving more than 140 accounts worldwide. For more information visit www.smgworld.com.

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