



Massey Hall and Roy Thomson Hall presents
SHARE THE MUSIC



TEACHER RESOURCES

MAVIS STAPLES



To apply for tickets for your school or community group to attend this *Share the Music* event, please visit mhrth.com/sharethemusic

THE TREASURED GOSPEL SONGSTRESS

Mavis Staples born in Chicago is an iconic gospel singer with an extensive career of almost 70 years of performance. In her youth she sang with her family music group “The Staple Singers”. Her father “Pop Staple” became close with Reverend Martin Luther King Jr. during the civil rights movement and their music then became associated with the movement. Often their band would open for Martin Luther King Jr. During the time the band was performing together, their home became a hub for many travelling performers such as Ray Charles, Redd Foxx, Stevie Wonder, Aretha Franklin, and many other big names in music at the time. As a solo artist, Mavis’ music mainly focused on gospel but she has also had great hits in several other genres such as Soul, Blues, Americana, and Pop.

Music was the thing that defined Mavis’ life. It was what fueled her soul and what captured the hearts of all her fans. She dedicated herself to her music in that she never had any children to focus on her career. She was so dedicated that for her fourth album, *Have a Little Faith*, used \$40,000 of Mavis’ credit just so it could be made. That risk was worth all the reward as that album won several Blues Music awards in the early 2000s.

During Mavis’ career she has had many achievements and awards earned. Both solo and with her family group, she has won and been nominated for many Grammy Awards, Blues Music Awards, and Americana Music Honors & Awards. To acknowledge her successful career, she has also been entered into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame with her family group and into the Blues Hall of Fame in 2017 as a solo artist. Throughout her life and with her music, Mavis has been very generous in her charities and foundations she supports. She supports many charities with music at the heart of their mission. She has also used her own music to do charitable work. For her song “All in it Together” proceeds are donated to My Block, My Hood, My City, to ensure seniors have the essentials to be protected from COVID-19.

“I feel if you don’t go out there, if you don’t mingle among the people, how are you going to know what they need to know, and hear what they need to hear? That’s the good part. That’s the best part. Just treat everyone right.” – Mavis Staples



DID YOU KNOW?

MAVIS RECEIVED AN HONORARY DOCTORAL DEGREE FROM DELTA STATE UNIVERSITY DUE TO HER IMPACT IN MUSIC AND ACTIVISM DURING THE CIVIL RIGHTS MOVEMENT.



DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- ◆ How do you think music informs and affects activism? Do you know of other music or musicians associated with activist movements?
- ◆ Listen to a few Mavis Staples songs from different albums. Can you identify the genre? What parts of the music make it identifiable?
- ◆ What techniques and style does Mavis use when singing? Can you name any? (Ex: vibrato, vocables, crescendo, etc.) How do they affect the music?
- ◆ What is gospel and what are its roots? How has gospel influenced other genres of music?



FURTHER RESOURCES

OFFICIAL WEBSITE:

www.mavisstaples.com

TO READ

I'll Take You There: Mavis Staples, the Staple Singers, and the March up Freedom's Highway

TO LISTEN

"All in it Together" – Proceeds will be donated to My Block, My Hood, My City ([Spotify](#))

TO WATCH

Mavis Staples - "No Time for Cryin'" (Live) [ANTI RECORDS] ([YouTube](#))

SHARE THE MUSIC:

Share the Music, presented by the Corporation of Massey Hall and Roy Thomson Hall, aims to enhance and broaden students' musical horizons by providing tickets to world-class performances and educational pre-concert workshops. Schools and community groups are invited to apply for complimentary *Share the Music* tickets to **Mavis Staples** and other notable performances. For more information, please visit mhrth.com/sharethemusic

CONTACT EDUCATION & OUTREACH TEAM:

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