Press & Media Kit

THE TOUR

ARGUABLY THE MOST INFLUENTIAL GOSPEL ARTIST OF THE 20TH CENTURY

Gospel singer and seven-time Grammy winner Andraé Crouch (1942-2015) hardly needs introduction. His compositions–"The Blood Will Never Lose Its Power," "Through It All," "Jesus is the Answer," "Soon and Very Soon," and others-set the gold standard for gospel music and remain staples in modern hymnals today. He is often spoken of in the same "genius" pantheon as Mahalia Jackson, Thomas Dorsey, and the Rev. James Cleveland and was lauded as "the foremost gospel singer of his generation" by former President Barack and First Lady Michelle Obama upon his death in 2015.

Authors Robert Darden and Stephen Newby celebrate the countless ways that Crouch indelibly changed the course of gospel and popular music. Not least among them was Crouch's progressive pursuit to address the sociopolitical issues of his time, including AIDS, prejudice, abuse, housing insecurity, and addiction. With his twin sister Sandra, Crouch served as minister of the church their father founded and ministered to individuals experiencing these issues despite ongoing criticism from some church members. Crouch's group "The Disciples" were the first bi-racial musical ensemble in gospel music and performed in a range of venues from mega-churches to Madison Square Garden and Carnegie Hall, in addition to network television programs ranging from *Soul Train* to *The Tonight Show Starring Johnny Carson* to *Saturday Night Live*. In doing so, Crouch and his Disciples introduced jazz, funk, classical, calypso, Latin and other musical elements into gospel. By the peak of his career, Crouch's influence was so pervasive that he recorded, performed with, and composed for some of the most powerful names in popular music, including Michael Jackson, Elvis Presley, Elton John, Bob Dylan, Paul Simon, Quincy Jones, Little Richard, Stevie Wonder, and Madonna.

To illuminate the vivid world in which Crouch lived, Darden and Newby include interviews with surviving musicians, collaborators, friends, and family members, complete with musical analysis of Crouch's compositions and lyrics. As a major intervention in gospel and popular music studies, Soon and Very Soon tells the fascinating and dynamic story of one of the true giants in American popular music.

CONTACT

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Gospel Music / Biography / Black History

PRAISE FOR *SOON AND VERY SOON*

"Darden and Newby's collaboration offers a unique perspective on Crouch's legacy, showcasing the endearing power of music to touch hearts, bridge divides, and nurture the human spirit!"
~ Kevin Bond, Grammy-winning producer and musician

"Darden and Newby are to be commended...,likely to become the definitive exploration of this influential artist." ~ Library Journal

"Profoundly accurate not only in historical facts but in music theory analysis."
~ Amazon five star review

For a review copy, please contact Emma Paolini at Oxford Press: emma.paolini@oup.com. To schedule an interview or tour date, contact Amanda Stubbert at 206.778.2098 or info@soonandverysoontour.com

THE TOUR

01 LECTURE

by Robert Darden and/or Stephen Newby

TINY DESK CONCERT 02

music by Stephen Newby mixed with the history of Andre Crouch and his music by Robert Darden

03 TINY DESK CONCERT

with Grammy-winner Kevin Bond and friends

CHOIR CONCERT 04

with historical context and sermon options

05 COMMUNITY SING

with multiple community choirs coming together plus all of the above options

STEPHEN NEWBY

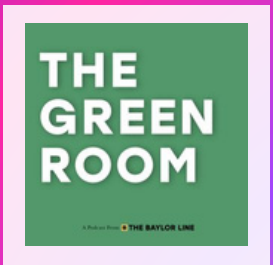
Dr. Stephen Michael Newby currently holds The Lev H. Prichard III Endowed Chair in the Study of Black Worship and Professor of Music and serves as Ambassador for The Black Gospel Music Preservation Program at Baylor University. He formerly served as Minister of Worship at Peachtree Presbyterian Church in Atlanta, GA, and as Director for the Center for African American Worship studies at Trevecca Nazarene University in Nashville, TN. He held a tenured Professor of Music post at Seattle Pacific University, where he also served as Director of University Ministries, Director for the Center for Worship, and Senior Advisor to the University President for Missional Excellence.

He has more than three decades of university-level teaching and administration to his credit. He is a native of Detroit, MI, and received his Bachelor of Arts in Vocal Music Education from Madonna University in Livonia, MI. He received a Master of Music in Jazz Composition and Arranging from the University of Massachusetts at Amherst. He returned to Michigan to complete his Doctor of Musical Arts in Composition at the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor and served as an Assistant Professor of Music Composition and Computer Arts. He received his Master of Arts in Theology from Seattle Pacific Seminary.

ROBERT DARDEN

Robert F. Darden, Master Teacher and Emeritus Professor of Journalism, Public Relations & New Media at Baylor University, is one of the most awarded faculty members in the institution's history. A celebrated author, researcher, and educator, Darden has taught courses ranging from Magazine and Feature Writing to Screenwriting and Research Methods. His dedication to student growth and storytelling helped shape generations of journalists, earning him accolades such as the Outstanding Teacher and Researcher Awards, the Cornelia Marschall Smith Award for Outstanding Professor, and recognition for his work in diversity and inclusion through the Black Gospel Music Preservation Program.

Beyond the classroom, Darden is the author of more than two dozen books, including *Soon and Very Soon: The Transformative Music and Ministry of Andraé Crouch* and the acclaimed *Nothing But Love in God's Water* volumes. His expertise in Black sacred music has led to appearances on NPR, the BBC, and the PBS series *The Black Church with Dr. Henry Louis Gates Jr.* A former newspaper journalist, his writing has appeared in *The New York Times*, *The Oxford American*, *Christianity Today*, and many others. As co-founder of the BGMRP, Darden has helped preserve America's rich gospel music heritage, contributing to collections at the Smithsonian. His love for storytelling, music, film, and culture continues to inspire and enrich both the Baylor community and beyond.

SAMPLE MEDIA COVERAGE

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