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Award-Winning Organist Releases Sophomore Album “God He’s Able”

(Memphis, TN)--Legendary, award-winning organist Rev. C.E. Hodges will debut his sophomore CD, *God He’s Able*, in his hometown of Germantown, TN. Hodges, a member of the late Willie Mitchell’s Hi Rhythm Section band, has performed and/or written songs for a plethora of artists that include Al Green, Syl Johnson, O.V. Wright, Tom Jones, Bonnie Raitt and Toni Braxton. He has returned to the studio to produce his latest CD, which has been described as a traditional Gospel CD with a new school twist. **The CD release event is Wednesday, July 13, 2011, at 6 p.m., at Historic New Bethel M.B. Church, located at 7786 Poplar Pike in Germantown, TN. The public is invited to attend.**

Hodges, along with his older brothers Leroy and Mabon (Teenie) were an integral part of the Hi Rhythm Section, when Mitchell served as an artist/songwriter/producer for the legendary Hi Records music label. The Hodges brothers are credited with helping to create the signature Soul sound that originated from Memphis, TN in the 60’s and 70’s. Their younger brother, Fred (keyboards), later joined the band as well.

Recognized as one of the premier organists in the world, Hodges has been using his talents to entertain and bless others since he was 11 years old. The majority of his career has been spent creating hits for others through his musicianship and songwriting. Hi Records was home to Willie Mitchell, Al Green, Ann Peebles, Syl Johnson, Otis Clay and many others. He and his Hi Rhythm Section band mates created a record-setting 26 consecutive gold and platinum records. Hodges also played for several Stax Records artists such as Johnny Taylor, Little Milton, The Bar-Kays, Carla Thomas, Rufus Thomas, The Box Tops, Shirley Brown, The Soul Children, and ZZ Hill. He has even been requested for recording sessions with the likes of Ike and Tina Turner, Albert Collins, the Greene Brothers, Willie Cobbs, Denise LaSalle, James Carr, Toni Braxton, Detroit Emeralds, Bonnie Raitt, Lamont Dozier and Rod Stewart.

The music veteran’s first solo CD, *Take It to the Altar*, was released in 2006. Now, with the assistance of his friend Rev. Frank E. Ray Jr., Hodges has put together, *God He’s Able*, a traditional Gospel album he describes as a message from God through song that’s meant to encourage and give hope. *God He’s Able* contains 12 songs, three of which were on his first album but have been re-recorded and enhanced. Ten songs were written by Hodges and the CD also contains soul-stirring renditions of the hymns “Blessed Jesus” and “Down by the Riverside.” Evangelist Deborah Gatewood, Tiffany Mosley, Sierra Ward, Essie Street, and Rev. Willie Cole also lent their vocals to the project.

“I’ve been blessed to play for some of the most prominent artists in the world. I’ve stood beside them as they entertained audiences of thousands here in the United States and across the seas,” said Hodges. “I know what it feels like to be at the top and because of my past drug abuse, I’ve been at the bottom. I lost everything but the Lord told me he’d give it all back to me if I lived my life for him. I did that and he kept his promise. Even in my 60’s people are still requesting to hear me play. If there’s anything I’ve learned, it’s God’s Able.”

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