

PASTOR SHIRLEY CAESAR

In celebrating her 50th anniversary as a solo recording artist and a career that spans over 60 years, as one of the most recognized names and voices, the Reigning Queen of Gospel, **Pastor Shirley Caesar** stands tall, committed to her journey as a humanitarian, entrepreneur and internationally-renowned gospel singer, songwriter, author and pastor. Known as a musical trailblazer influencing a wide range of artists across genres, her career has made an indelible mark on American music and the sounds of gospel. With an arsenal of over 40 recorded albums, 11 GRAMMY® Awards, 14 Stellar Awards, 18 Dove Awards, an induction into the Gospel Music Hall of Fame, Pastor Shirley Caesar is, “in my lane and enjoying the results of the labor.” With her latest Light Records/Entertainment One 2016 album release **FILL THIS HOUSE**, Pastor Shirley remains “grateful for the music, the songwriters, the songs, and to be a gospel singer. I am thankful to sing for the Lord.” Executive produced by Caesar, Stanley Brown and Phil Thornton, Caesar’s rich powerhouse voice fills the album’s 11 tracks, inspiring spiritual rejuvenation and strength to persevere through tough times.

The Durham, NC native began her career recording at the age of 13 as “Baby Shirley.” When gospel legend and leader of the Caravans Albertina Walker became aware of the electrifying singer and performer as a college student, Caesar halted her studies to perform with the Chicago-based group for eight years. Pastor Shirley officially went solo in 1966 and became a legendary mainstay when her gospel version of the number one country hit “No Charge” crossed over to the R&B and pop charts in 1975.

As the Reigning Queen and First Lady of Gospel, Pastor Shirley is passionate about living up to her best self for the next generation. For her, the value in revering the Lord reveals itself in how one shows up as a human being. “Your life has to speak more than the song. Every song must carry a powerful meaning, because this is ministry, we are ministers and we deliver a sermon in shoes. By your fruit, you will be known.” How Pastor Shirley shows her reverence for the Lord in her personal and professional life is widely known, respected and valued within and outside of her musical ministry.

In addition to being honored with music accolades, Pastor Shirley has performed for numerous world leaders including every U.S. President since Jimmy Carter, and performed on Broadway, film and TV. Beyond her musical ministry, the North Carolina native has remained deeply committed in personally serving the Durham and Raleigh, NC communities, as pastor of Mt. Calvary Word of Faith Church in Raleigh, NC for over 20 years and offering community assistance to those in need through her Shirley Caesar Outreach Ministries for over 40 years, and also served on the Durham City Council for four years between 1987-1991.

For Pastor Shirley Caesar, her legacy is aligned with continued excellence in her humanitarian efforts as she desires to continue to bless others because she was blessed. Because “after all these years, my life, my testimony at the end of all tribulation – we win. God has got it in control.”