**2015 Trailblazers Script**

**January 17, 2015**

**[VO] Taped Message**

Today’s event is being taped for television.

Please be advised that cell phones and

cameras are not permitted.

At this time we ask that cell phones

be turned off so that the sound quality

will not be compromised.

If we see your cameras flashing or

hear your cell phones ringing, vibrating

or buzzing they will be confiscated.

The photos that you see

placed on the chairs are for camera block.

Please do not remove them.

Thank you!

At this time I would like to invite Bishop Paul S. Morton

Of Changing a Generation Full Gospel Baptist Church

to join me on stage for prayer.

***(Bishop Morton prays and exits)***

**[VO]**

Ladies and gentlemen, please welcome Vice President

of Writer/Publisher Relations, Catherine Brewton.

***(Catherine Brewton to the Stage)***

***(Catherine open)***

Good evening everyone. Welcome

to BMI’s 16th Annual Trailblazers of

Gospel Music Awards. This year’s

Awards ceremony is very special as

We return to Atlanta. Our first show

Was held here in 1999 with 150 guests — we’ve come full circle.

As you know, The show has been held in Nashville for many

Years and we’ve had some powerful times, experienced great

Performances and packed the room every year we were there

But Atlanta is home. It has a rich history

And legacy of gospel music, from its days of being the

Soundtrack for the civil rights movement, to the

Thriving music community that it is now – encompassing

Several genres of gospel music. The city

Offers a large media reach, a variety of Christian and gospel

Music labels, recording studios and rehearsal spaces,

and a plethora of mega churches … plus there is the

Georgia entertainment tax credit available for those artists who produce

Music videos and commercials here. There are several gospel artists who

Are from Atlanta or now call it home and many more who come to

Partake in all the city has to offer and its southern hospitality.

Also, we are delighted to be here at The Rialto Center for the Arts at

Georgia State University.

The BMI Trailblazers of Gospel Awards are given

To individuals who are not only legends and icons in

Gospel music, but who also have a body of work that

Has greatly impacted the industry. It may also be

Bestowed upon individuals with a legacy behind

Them and who have been around for a few decades.

There is a review committee and they don’t take

their selection responsibility lightly.

Great thought and dialogue goes into the decision.

We are very excited this year

to have the honor of paying tribute

to gospel music icons,

1. Israel Houghton
2. LaShun Pace

and The Anointed Pace Sisters!

These artists have made their musical

mark for years and have

impacted audiences around the world.

Israel Houghton got his start as praise and worship

Leader at Joel Osteen’s world-renowned Lakewood Church.

His songs have since become the soundtrack for Sunday

Morning praise and worship.

LaShun Pace emerged from a dynamic group and gave us

some of gospel’s most memorable song performances

that have been often imitated, but never quite duplicated.

And the Anointed Pace Sisters can

Blow the roof off the church with their

Powerful vocals and harmony. The bond of

Sisterhood is evident in this multitalented family group.

BMI would like to pay homage to

these trailblazers tonight with a

fabulous musical tribute.

We will also award the top 5 gospel songs of 2014

And the gospel song of the year tonight.

***Catherine***

In 2014 Gospel music hit another pinnacle. It’s been another

Inspiring and record-breaking year. Gospel continues to be the

Blueprint for the world in times of trouble and we continue to be

Uplifted by songs that influence the nation.

Though not Classified as a gospel song, Pharrell Williams’ worldwide

infectious hit, “Happy,” became a popular song ministered

During Sunday morning. Lecrae dominated the charts with

“All I Need is You,” and “Say I Won’t” with Andy Mineo. Michelle Williams’

groovy, “Say Yes” featured Beyoncé and Kelly Rowland, while

“Beautiful Day” by Jamie Grace and “Beautiful” by Mali Music took

The number one spot. Ricky Dillard’s “Amazing” song not only

Was a radio favorite, it quickly became a favored choir selection too.