



LEWIS FAMILY  
**PLAYHOUSE**  
AT VICTORIA GARDENS  
CULTURAL CENTER  
RANCHO CUCAMONGA

# NEWS RELEASE

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## *The Blind Boys of Alabama Return to Lewis Family Playhouse with their Christmas Show Featuring Ruthie Foster on December 15<sup>th</sup>!*

### **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

November 8, 2018

**Rancho Cucamonga, California** – Unwrap a truly original holiday treat as legendary gospel performers *Blind Boys of Alabama* and celebrated guest star Ruthie Foster bring the Christmas spirit alive! It is going to be a lively and special evening during this one-night only performance of *Blind Boys of Alabama Christmas Show, featuring Ruthie Foster* on **Saturday, December 15th at 8:00 pm**. Tickets are priced at \$50.00 for General and \$48.00 for Seniors for Gold Level Seating. All seats at Platinum Level are \$55.00.

Acclaimed by Rolling Stone as “gospel titans,” the group’s spell-binding blend of gospel, blues, and soul have won them respect and praise across the nation for decades. This year, the *Blind Boys* join forces with fiery award-winning vocalist, Ruthie Foster for a truly powerful holiday concert sure to bring the house down! *Blind Boys of Alabama: Christmas Show featuring Ruthie Foster* will showcase songs from their 2014 album, *Talkin’ Christmas!* including Christmas standards like the raucously jubilant arrangement of “Do You Hear What I Hear?”, an intimate, acoustic rendition of “Silent Night,” and many more gospel gems.

Celebrating their 70<sup>th</sup> year as a group, *The Blind Boys of Alabama* have, according to *The New York Times*, come to “epitomize what is known as jubilee singing.” The surviving original members, Clarence Fountain and Jimmy Carter (current group leader), were born in the Deep South during the Great Depression. Their journey facing racial prejudice, segregation, poverty, and physical blindness in the midst of the U.S.’s worst economic disaster is reflected in the

**Lewis Family Playhouse at Victoria Gardens Cultural Center**

12505 Cultural Center Drive, Rancho Cucamonga, CA 91739 · Administration: (909) 477-2775 · Fax: (909) 477-2774

**Box Office: (909) 477-2752 · Fax (909) 477-2753 · [lewisfamilyplayhouse.com](http://lewisfamilyplayhouse.com)**

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group's musical arrangements, celebrating the light of genuine perseverance. Now immortalized in the Gospel Music Hall of Fame, the group has won five Grammy Awards, including one for Lifetime Achievement, and have collaborated with the likes of Mavis Staples, Stevie Wonder, Prince, and Lou Reed to name a few. It's no wonder *TIME Magazine* lauded, "they're always hunting for - and finding - the perfect note or harmony that lifts an old tune into the sublime."

Hailing from rural Texas, Ruthie Foster began her career in her church choir and a tour of duty with the U.S. Navy Band. Three-time Grammy-nominated Foster has been likened to that of Aretha Franklin and Mavis Staples with an ability to wield rock, soul, blues, folk, and gospel like a flaming torch. To date, Foster has won seven Blues Music Awards, three Austin Music Awards, the Grand Prix du Disque award from the Académie Charles-Cros in France, a Living Blues Critics' Award for Female Blues Artist of the Year and dubbed an "inspiring American Artist" as a United States Artists 2018 Fellow. Don't miss out on hearing her perform with *The Blind Boys of Alabama* this holiday season!

An intimate, 560-seat venue, Lewis Family Playhouse is the crown jewel of the three-acre, 89,000-square-foot Victoria Gardens Cultural Center. The complex at 12505 Cultural Center Drive and is conveniently located off the I-15 at Foothill Boulevard, as a major anchor of Victoria Gardens. The Box Office is open Monday through Friday from noon to 6:00 p.m. and Saturday from 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m., with free parking available.

**For more information** – For additional information or to purchase tickets for any of our performances please visit [www.lewisfamilyplayhouse.com](http://www.lewisfamilyplayhouse.com) or call (909) 477-2752 or (877) 858-8422. Follow us on social media—Instagram, Facebook, Twitter, Google+, and YouTube—and download our app, LF Playhouse, available in the App Store and Google Play. #LewisFamilyPlayhouse

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