# **Clifton Grep**

Gospel Choir Conductor Artistic Leader Concert Organiser Booking Manager IT Technical Consultant



# Introduction - the short version

Hi! I'm Cliffon. **Gospel choir conductor**, **music entrepreneur, concert organizer**, **artistic director** and also IT in business. I am of Surinamese descent, born in Curaçao, living in The Hague, Netherlands, and my main motivation is to bring people **together**, **inspire** them and help them enjoy vibrant gospel music and other celebratory genres.

# Want to collaborate? Just contact me

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# Introduction

Like you, I can't live without music; music is my oxygen. In addition, gospel music and innovation are my greatest passions. Combine all that and connect and inspire people with unique experiences just gets me super excited with joy!

# **Concert Organiser**

As a versatile, enterprising, creative multi-talent with a heart for gospel music, I organize choir projects and concerts in which connection, collaboration and social participation are important features. For the young and old, from amateur to professionals; bringing people together to joyfully enjoy inspiring and swinging gospel and other music genres together, that's what we love

# **Gospel Conductor**

Unlike an "executive conductor", as a "lead conductor" I always work with a carefully selected and characteristic repertoire, with my own singing arrangements based on traditional gospel choir methodology. By operating from broad musical creativity and thorough knowledge of the 'black American gospel' genre, we are not tied to sheet music and the possibilities for me, our artist collective and the participating choristers are endless. With my energetic, inspiring way of conducting and a good balance between excellence and team building, I get the best out of choristers to touch and inspire the hearts of the listening audience together with artists; sitting still is usually not an option!

# Artistic Leader

To inspire people with unique musical experiences, I work as an artistic director with our artist collective at Cgrep Productions on concerts, choir projects, bookable bands/formations and other wonderful concepts. I am responsible for the artistic policy; cast of all artists, programming of concerts around specific themes, choice of repertoire, singing arrangements, monitoring artistic quality, coaching and support of background singers and musicians, and more.

And with adherence to the gospel method as a strategic starting point, we embark on unique 'music genre crossover' adventures, while retaining our own distinctive music style and recognizable sound. Awesome!



# **My Bio**

# I developed my love and affinity for music at a very young age and because my father was a minister, I soon became very familiar with gospel music.

Equipped with a cute little violin, I started violin lessons in classical music at the age of 5, to actively participate in the Curaçao Symphonic Orchestra under the direction of conductor Eric Gorsira until I was 19. In the meantime I also took piano lessons from the age of 12, and from the age of 14 became a pianist / organist of the ZDA church in Rio Canario, Curaçao, where I soon started to dress up the church hymns with influences from my other favorite music styles such as jazz, funk, breakdance music and traditional black gospel. The churchgoers were pleasantly surprised with the more cheerful congregational singing.

During my study years in the Netherlands, I soon became involved with the well-known black gospel conductor Edith Casteleyn, with whom I enjoyed working together as a pianist and singer for more than 7 years, participating in workshops, recordings, concerts, and more. In the meantime I retrained a youth group in Utrecht into a refreshing and beloved singing group called Kuriaké, and from 2006 I became the conductor of the modern gospel singing group 'Inside Out', with whom we often played inspiring performances at festivals, EO youth days, TV performances and Idols2008, where 3 of the 4 quarter finalists and the winner were also Inside Out singers. In the meantime I led various singing projects, such as mass choir projects, and I gave singing choir coaching at various organizations.

From 2017 to 2020, under the name 'BlackGospel Experience', I organized various gospel choir projects and concerts in theaters, in which choir singers from various cities in the Netherlands participated. BlackGospel Experience has further developed into CGrep Productions, which provides beautiful performances and music productions with our artist collective, and BlackGospel Experience Foundation, which is committed to gospel music in the Netherlands and the facilitation of social participation.

Call me

Clifton Jrep



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#### Music productions, performance booking

for: booking managers, corporate booking agencies, wedding planners, event organizers

#### Choir projects, workshops, choral events

*for:* choirs, project choir singers, cultural foundations, choir federations, church organizations, and more

### **Concerts and events**

for: concert audience, music lovers

# CGrep Producties info@cgrep.nl cgrep.nl

**Email me** 

## **Gospel Boost**

gospelboost.nl Stichting BlackGospel Experience

# **Gospel Re-Experience**

<u>gre.ju.mp</u>