

Press Release

For Immediate Release

Old-time country band "The Oriskany Strings" recreates the sounds and feelings of attending a little country church during the 1920s and 1930s with their new album "Mostly Gospel."

Critics and listeners agree that the band takes you back to a gentler time where you find yourself tapping your feet and singing along to their music.

To help celebrate the 100th anniversary of their own little white country church, King Memorial Church in Oriskany, Virginia, The Oriskany Strings decided to time the release of their first album to coincide with the homecoming celebration for the church. The band is very interested in preserving this beautiful little country church as well as old-time country gospel music, and they will donate a portion of their profits from the sale of the "Mostly Gospel" CD to the church.

Carol Lewis, who started the band, has her ancestral roots in Surber, an old railroad stop on the bygone Craig Valley Line, next door to Oriskany. She says, "When I moved back here to my family homeplace in 1997, I started attending a beautiful little white country church in nearby Oriskany, which my father and grandfather attended way back when. So I started asking around to find out if there were any others who wanted to get together and play music. And that's the way the band got started." Carol plays the five-string banjo and is one of the two lead female vocalists in the group.

On the "Mostly Gospel" album you will hear Southern country gospel songs played with old-time country instruments. Gene Guilliams, who sings lead vocals and plays the guitar, has the voice of an old-time country gospel singer. Rita Parady, the other lead female vocalist, has an angelic voice and creates heavenly sounds on her autoharp. Dick Parady, plays an old-time long-neck five-string banjo clawhammer style, just like country folks used to play. And Jack Lewis, the bassist for the group, plays a genuine washtub bass with a great sound.

When asked, "Why the name 'Mostly Gospel' for the album?" Carol Lewis replied, "because 11 of the 12 songs are old-time gospel songs, but there is one very touching love song, *Rose Of My Heart*, that our fans wanted us to include on the album."

The band created a website to coincide with the release of "Mostly Gospel." You can visit it at <http://www.oriskanystrings.com>. There you can hear sound clips of all the songs on the album, get more details of the band and their instruments, sign-up for their newsletter, review their live performance schedule and, of course, order the "Mostly Gospel" CD risk free.

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