



June 29th, 2007 @ Downtown Presbyterian Church—Mike Farris & The Rosedale Rhythm Revue

Mike Farris's CD Release Was One of the Best Nashville Performances of 2007

Mike Farris and the Rosedale Rhythm Revue delivered a blistering performance of

Farris's new record *Salvation in Lights* in Nashville's historic Downtown Presbyterian Church. Indeed, Farris's remarkably strong and energetic interpretation and blend of traditional gospel and Memphis blues added up to one of the best live performances in Nashville for 2007.

Early in the set, Farris humbly described how his past struggles with identity as a singer resulted in close friends encouraging him to "just do what you do." Heeding this advice, he fully embraced the roots of rock 'n' roll by unashamedly turning to traditional gospel songs and Memphis Blues. As if the record's brilliance is not evidence enough that Farris has found his calling, the live performance found Farris energetically belting pitch-perfect Memphis Stax soul with a smile that wouldn't quit. The feel of this night was like a Ryman performance, only a bit smaller.





Farris tried to energize the reserved (mostly industry folk) white crowd during his first song; but it wasn't until the second song, "Sit Down Servant" with its lyrical banter between the Angels (at least that's how the Rosedale Rhythm Revue sounded) and a newly admitted soul to heaven about sittin' down, that Farris finally lifted the crowd to its feet. Farris, while singing the part of the newly admitted soul proclaimed: "I can't sit down, I just got to heaven and I can't sit down," after which he immediately looked sternly at the audience and interjected, "I can't believe ya'll still sittin' down!" Needless to say, the audience got on their feet, and the rest of the set was a cross between a classic Elvis performance and a Pentecostal worship service of the best kind. To be sure, the cameras started flashing early and by the end of the set, fans were rushing the stage with their cell phones trying to capture the energy of the moment in the perfect photo. Mike Farris's humble return to gospel and blues should earn him a 2007 Grammy nomination.

—Vincent Wynne/www.listennashville.com