



## LARRY GATLIN TO APPEAR ON GLOBAL COMMONS 2 STAGE

**The well-known American country and gospel singer, song writer, and performer Larry Gatlin will appear on the Global Commons 2 stage August 2, 2005 at 12:00PM. This will be his only performance at Expo 2005. The appearance is in celebration of "Texas Days" at the United States Pavilion, August 1-3, 2005.**

### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**Nagukute – August 1, 2005.** Larry Gatlin is best-known for his '80s hits with the Gatlin Brothers, but prior to forming and leading that family trio, he enjoyed a successful solo career with occasional support from his brothers. Gatlin was born in Seminole, TX, in 1948, and raised on country gospel music. He and his brothers, Steve and Rudy, often sang together in church, as well as on local radio and television every once in a while; they also recorded an album for the small gospel label Sword & Shield. After high school, Gatlin enrolled at the University of Houston, where he joined a gospel group called the Imperials. The Imperials went on to perform in Jimmy Dean's Las Vegas revue, where Gatlin met Dottie West. Impressed by his songwriting, West recorded two of his compositions, "You're the Other Half of Me" and "Once You Were Mine"; not only that, she passed his demo tape around Nashville, and even paid for him to relocate there. Gatlin quickly found work as a backup singer for Kris Kristofferson, and not long after, he landed a solo deal with Monument in 1973.

Gatlin issued his debut album, *The Pilgrim*, later that year, and it produced his first charting country single, "Sweet Becky Walker," which inched into the Top 40. 1974's "Delta Dirt" was his first Top 20 hit, taken from the album *Rain Rainbow*. Gatlin's brothers first made their presence felt on his third album, 1976's *Larry Gatlin With Family & Friends*, which gave him his first Top Five hit in "Broken Lady." Sometimes accompanied by his brothers, Gatlin scored three more Top Five singles in 1977 ("I Don't Wanna Cry," "Love Is Just a Game," and "Statues Without Hearts"), and in 1978 scored his first number one, "I Just Wish You Were Someone I Love." When Gatlin left



Monument for Columbia in 1979, he started crediting the Gatlin Brothers Band on all of his recordings, starting with that year's number one smash "All the Gold in California." Although the group's subsequent releases had several variations on the Gatlin Brothers and often billed Larry out front, it was all essentially Gatlin Brothers music from then on.

The Gatlin Brothers' success continued for much of the '80s, bringing them nine more Top Ten hits and another number one with 1983's "Houston (Means I'm One Day Closer to You)." Their last big hit came in 1987 with the Top Five "Talkin' to the Moon," but their brand of smooth country-pop was soon eclipsed by the new traditionalist movement. After a commercial decline of several years, the group decided to retire in 1991 and embarked on a successful farewell tour. Larry Gatlin starred in the Broadway production of *The Will Rogers Follies*, and in 1993 the group opened their own theater in Branson, MO. In 1998, Gatlin released the solo gospel album *In My Life*. ~ Steve Huey, *All Music Guide*.

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