



By Naomi Richard  
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(VILLAGER NEWS) - **Marvin Sapp**, Senior Pastor of *The Chosen Vessel Church* in Fort Worth, Texas, is a mainstay in Gospel music in no small part because of his consistency. On June 10<sup>th</sup>, Sapp released his 15<sup>th</sup> album, *Substance*, a lyrical and sonic masterpiece that demonstrates the depth and breadth of his God-given musical gift.

While *Substance* is Sapp's 15<sup>th</sup> offering, it is also the first album released on his newly-formed independent label **Elev8 Music & Entertainment** (distributed through Thirty Tigers), and it is the first album to be recorded in his newly built 2,400 square foot Fort Worth, Texas studio.

"Being the artist and the label was a new experience," says Sapp. "I'm used to recording the album, turning it in and letting the label do what it does best with administration, marketing and promotions. This time, I was the artist, conceptualizing and creating, and the label head, looking over budgets, production, marketing and promotions. It was a lot, but it was fulfilling. I've thought about having my own label for many years and

# Marvin Sapp Releases 15<sup>th</sup> Album!

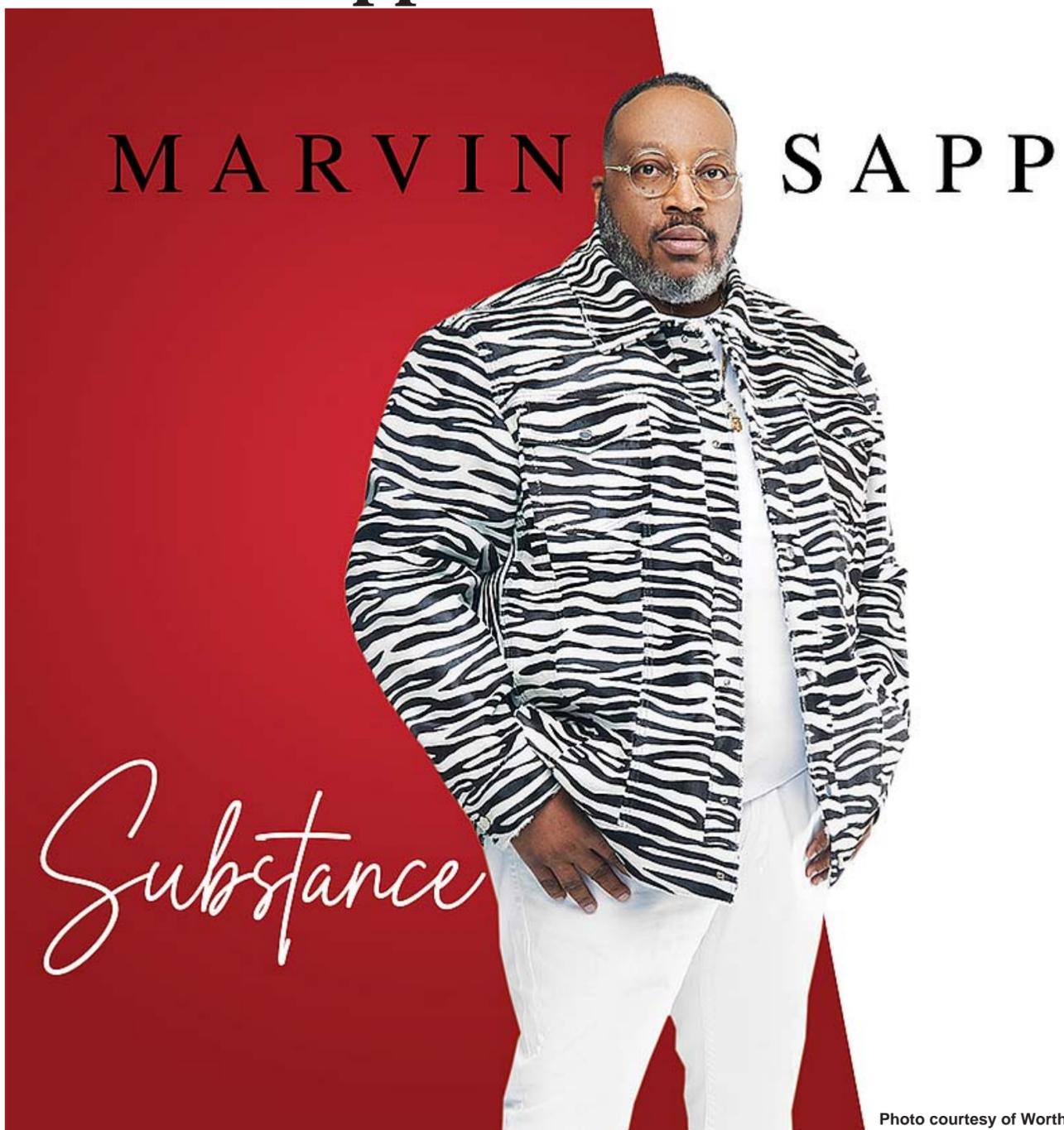


Photo courtesy of WorthInkPR.

now that I finally do, I embrace the challenge. I'm also grateful for long standing industry relationships that I have been able to call on for assistance and guidance when needed."

The lead single, "**All In Your Hands**," was written by Sapp and frequent collaborator **Stan Jones**. The luminous track speaks to the anxiety that so

many of us continue to experience because of the COVID-19 pandemic and everything else happening in the world. "It speaks directly to the unsurety, the stress and pain and tells us that we do not have to worry about these things because God made us some promises, and we know He keeps His promises. We picked it as the first

single because it sets the tone – thematically – for the entire album," says Sapp. "I wanted to deliver biblically-based lyrical content that would allow listeners to have their faith fortified and be entertained simultaneously."

The album also features "**You Kept Me**," co-written by **Jarmone Davis**, who penned Sapp's last #1 single

"**Thank You For It All**." A track that will serve as a pleasant surprise is "**Serve the Lord**" featuring the **Williams Singers**.

Sapp revisited two of his classics and commissioned a remix of "**Not the Time, Not the Place**" and "**Grace and Mercy**." "This is a 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary edition of songs that I did early in my career that people still always want to hear.

I gave them to a writer to flip and put his stamp on, and I love how it came out. I think people will enjoy it," says Sapp.

*Substance* boasts 11 reflective and refreshing musical reminders that a life with God at its center should be a life free of worry and stress. Marvin Sapp's new album, *Substance*, is available everywhere digital music is sold.



By John Harris Jr.  
VILLAGER  
Sports Columnist

(VILLAGER) - When Dr. Rosalind Oliphant created the African American Book Festival in 2007, it arose from a need to showcase Black authors and writers in Austin. The 16<sup>th</sup> annual festival will be held Saturday, June 25 at the George Washington Carver Museum and Library (1165 Angelina Street) from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

"The festival is an extension of a bookstore I owned here in the 90s," Oliphant said of her former literary establishment, Folktales. "It comes from a passion and commitment to honor and celebrate Black literature."

For Oliphant, creating the festival was a natural outgrowth fo-

cus on the development and appreciation of Black literary talent in Central Texas.

Oliphant was overwhelmed and pleased by the response of the local book reading public desiring more events designed for people of color. After studying the successful Harlem Book Fair, the largest African American book fair in the country, Oliphant launched a similar event featuring high-profile national authors plus literary talent in and around Austin.

The event took off from there.

"Our first festival featured novelist Reshonda Tate Billingsley," Oliphant said in a recent interview with The Villager. "We had children's story time, vendors, and poetry readings. It was a fine start, and our mission to celebrate works by and about African American authors continues. Since the first event, we've expanded to include literary discussions, workshops, and our author showcase highlighting independent authors."



Dr. Rosalind Oliphant

Oliphant is particularly excited that this year's book festival will be open to the public (admission is free) after it was hosted virtually due to COVID-19. "The transition back to an in-person event is not without logistical challenges, but we are putting in the work to produce great talent," Oliphant said.

The featured speaker at the 2022 African American Book Festival is economist, author and educator Dr. Julianne Malveaux, who will discuss her upcoming book "Surviving and Thriving: 365 Facts in Black Economic History." Malveaux is Dean of the College of Ethnic Studies at California State University.

Dr. Mark Cunningham, Associate Professor of Radio-Television-Film at Austin Community College, will lead a discussion on Dr. Martin Luther King's book "Where Do We Go From Here: Chaos or Community" and provide insights into King's concerns and aspirations for America's future.

Children's author Don Tate will present "Pigskin to Paintbrushes: The Story of Football Playing Artist Ernie Barnes." Barnes is known for his famous "Sugar Shack" print. Another children's author, Van Garrett, will debut his picture book "Kicks." Tate and Garrett will join historian kYmberly Keeton

## 2022 African American Book Festival schedule

June 25, 2022

George Washington Carver  
Museum and Library

10 a.m. - Author showcase

10 a.m. - Children's Story Time/Table  
Station Activities

11 a.m. - Story Time with Don Tate  
and Van Garrett

11:30 a.m. - Dr. Julianne Malveaux

12: 30 - Black History Art Activity  
with kYmberly Keeton

1:30 - Dr. Mark Cunningham Book  
Discussion

1:30 Teen Girl workshop with Kelly Fair

as the trio will work with children in attendance making collages focused on the art of Ernie Barnes.

Social entrepreneur Kelly Fair, who founded the Polished Pebbles Girls Mentoring Program, will discuss her book "Every Girl is a CEO" encouraging girls to establish and achieve

goals and overcome obstacles.

A new author showcase will be introduced featuring local writers. Among them: Villager Sports Columnist John Harris, co-author of "From Gold Teeth to Gold Jacket: My Life in Football and Business" with Pro Football Hall of Famer Edgerrin James.