

# State of South Carolina

## Governor's Proclamation

**WHEREAS,** originally sung by church quartets and traveling family groups, Southern Gospel music emerged during the early years of the 20<sup>th</sup> century; and

**WHEREAS,** Southern Gospel music encompasses styles ranging from traditional four-part male quartet harmonies with simple piano accompaniment to modern country renditions; and

**WHEREAS,** Southern Gospel music continues to grow in popularity, appealing to diverse listening audiences as well as to all age groups; and

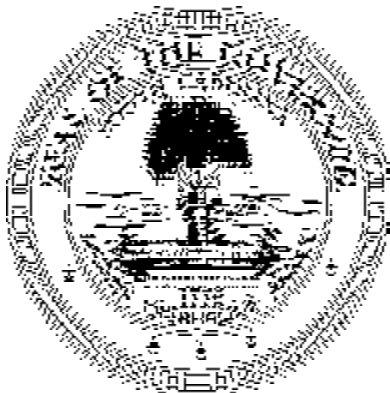
**WHEREAS,** hundreds of full-time and part-time groups are on the road each weekend throughout the nation singing Southern Gospel music in churches and concert halls, over a thousand American radio stations play Southern Gospel music regularly, and more Americans are attending concerts and purchasing Southern Gospel music recordings than ever before; and

**WHEREAS,** the preservation of Southern Gospel music encourages greater understanding and awareness of the rich and diverse cultural heritage of the Palmetto State, while helping to ensure that generations to come may enjoy and appreciate this unique art form.

**NOW, THEREFORE, I,** Mark Sanford, Governor of the Great State of South Carolina, do hereby proclaim September 2003 as

### SOUTHERN GOSPEL MUSIC MONTH

throughout the state and encourage all South Carolinians to celebrate this musical genre, its history, the artists, and the positive message it carries.



A stylized, high-contrast signature of Mark Sanford.

**MARK SANFORD**  
**GOVERNOR**  
**STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA**