**BMI HONORS GOSPEL’S BEST & BRIGHTEST AT THE TRAILBLAZERS OF GOSPEL MUSIC AWARDS IN LAS VEGAS**

**DONNIE MCCLURKIN PRESENTED WITH SONG OF THE YEAR FOR “I NEED YOU”**

***The Private Luncheon Also Recognized the Top Ten Most Performed   
Gospel Songs Of 2017***

March 26, 2018 (New York, NY) - [**BMI**](http://www.bmi.com/)honored the best and brightest in gospel music at the **BMI** **Trailblazers of Gospel Music** luncheon, held on March 23rd at La Cave in Las Vegas, Nevada. Renowned singer/songwriter **Donnie McClurkin** was awarded the event’s highest honor of **Song of the Year** for his hit "**I Need You**, " which spent 58 weeks on *Billboard’s* Hot Gospel Songs chart. The private ceremony was hosted by BMI Vice-President, Creative, Atlanta **Catherine Brewton** and Assistant Vice-President, Creative, Los Angeles **Wardell Malloy**.

The uplifting event also celebrated the remarkable achievements of the gospel community recognizing the **Ten Most Performed Songs of the Year** (2017) from its affiliated songwriters. Those songs included  "**#YDIA**" written by Lucius B. Hoskins; "**Better**" written by Jason Clayborn; "**Father Jesus Spirit**" written and performed by Fred Hammond with co-writer Shelton Summons;  "**God Provides**" written by Kirk Franklin; "**God's Grace**" written and performed by Luther Barnes;  "**Hang On**" written by Derrick Starks; "**Never Have to Be Alone**” written by Alvin Love III; "**Victory Belongs to Jesus**" written and performed by Todd Dulaney; "**You**" written and performed by Jeremy Boyd with co-writer Jermaine Dolly and "**You Deserve It**" written by David Bloom.

“It was an honor to recognize the work of these incredible songwriters who have touched so many with their unique gift,” said Brewton. “Their music has been a cornerstone of worship and they continue to inspire others through their songwriting.”

Photos are available for download on BMI.com, visit: <https://www.bmi.com/press/entry/579349>

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**Media Contacts**   
Brittnee Walker Jodie Thomas  
[BBWalker@bmi.com](mailto:BBWalker@bmi.com) JThomas@bmi.com  
212-220-3134 212-220-3142