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UMass Fine Arts center Concert Hall

The Paul Taylor Dance Foundation, Inc.
in association with
Fine Arts Center, University of Massachusetts Amherst
presents

RICHARD CHEN SEE  MICHAEL TRUSNOVEC  ANNMARIA MAZZINI
ORION DUCKSTEIN  AMY YOUNG  ROBERT KLEINENDORST
JULIE TICE  JAMES SAMSON  MICHELLE FLEET
PARISA KHOBDEH  SEAN MAHONEY  JEFFREY SMITH
ERAN BUGGE  FRANCISCO GRACIANO
LAURA HALZACK  JAMIE RAE WALKER

Artistic Director ..................................................... PAUL TAYLOR
Rehearsal Director...........................................BETTIE DE JONG
Principal Lighting Designer......................... JENNIFER TIPTON
Principal Set & Costume Designer ..........SANTO LOQUASTO
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MetLife Foundation is the Official Tour Sponsor of the
Paul Taylor Dance Company.

Additional support is provided by the National Endowment for the Arts, the New
York State Council on the Arts, a State agency, and the Board of Directors and
donors of the Paul Taylor Dance Foundation, Inc.

Tonight’s performance is sponsored by Silverscape Designs,
Cooley Dickinson Hospital and 93.9 The River

Paul Taylor Dance Company is funded in part by the Expeditions program of
the New England Foundation for the Arts, made possible with funding from the
National Endowment for the Arts Regional Touring Program and the American
Masterpieces initiative, with additional support from the
six New England state arts agencies.
ARDEN COURT

Music by William Boyce
Excerpts from Symphonies Nos. 1, 3, 5, 7, 8
Choreography by Paul Taylor
Set and Costumes by Gene Moore
Lighting by Jennifer Tipton
(First performed in 1981)

Richard Chen See        Michael Trusnovec        Annmaria Mazzini
Orion Duckstein        Amy Young        James Samson
Sean Mahoney        Francisco Graciano        Jamie Rae Walker

Original production made possible by contributions from the
National Endowment for the Arts,
which believes a great nation deserves great art;
The Mobil Foundation, Inc.;
and the New York State Council on the Arts, a State Agency.

Revival made possible by a generous contribution from Elise Jaffe and
Jeffrey Brown.

Preservation made possible by generous contributions to the
Paul Taylor Repertory Preservation Project
with support from the National Endowment for the Arts.

Intermission

EVENTIDE

Music by Ralph Vaughan Williams
Suite for Viola and Orchestra and Hymn-Tune Prelude, No.1
Choreography by Paul Taylor
Set and Costumes by Santo Loquasto
Lighting by Jennifer Tipton
(First performed in 1997)

Richard Chen See        Michael Trusnovec        Amy Young
Robert Kleinendorst        Julie Tice        James Samson
Michelle Fleet        Parisa Khobdeh        Sean Mahoney        Laura Halzack

Prelude .........................Ms. Fleet & Mr. Chen See, Ms. Young & Mr. Mahoney,
Ms. Halzack & Mr. Samson, Ms. Tice & Mr. Kleinendorst
Carol ................................................................. Ms. Khobdeh & Mr. Trusnovec
Christmas Dance ......................................................... Ms. Young & Mr. Mahoney
Ballad.............................................................................. Ms. Tice & Mr. Kleinendorst
Moto Perpetuo .......................................................... Ms. Fleet & Mr. Chen See
Musette............................................................................. Ms. Khobdeh & Mr. Trusnovec
Hymn-Tune Prelude ................................................................. full cast

Original Production made possible by a contribution from The Eleanor Naylor Dana Charitable Trust, Carole K. Newman, the National Endowment for the Arts, and the New York State Council on the Arts, a State Agency.

Preservation made possible by generous contributions to the Paul Taylor Repertory Preservation Project, with major support from the Foundations of the Milken Families and the National Endowment for the Arts.

**Intermission**

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LE SACRE DU PRINTEMPS  
(The Rehearsal)

Music by Igor Stravinsky  
Arrangement for two pianos  
Choreography by Paul Taylor  
Set and Costumes by John Rawlings  
Lighting by Jennifer Tipton  
(First performed in 1980)

Michael Trusnovec  
Amy Young  
Michelle Fleet  
Orion Duckstein  
A Dance Company..........................................................full cast  
Rehearsal Mistress.........................................................Ms. Halzack  
The Girl.................................................................Ms. Mazzini  
The Private Eye..............................................Mr. Trusnovec  
The Crook...........................................................Mr. Kleinendorst  
His Mistress.............................................................Ms. Young  
His Stooge..................................................................Ms. Tice  
Henchmen and Policemen .................Mr. Duckstein, Mr. Mahoney, Mr. Smith  
Bar Dancers.................................................Ms. Fleet, Ms. Khobdeh, Ms. Bugge

Original production made possible, in part, by contributions from the National  
Endowment for the Arts, and the  
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Preservation made possible by generous contributions to the Paul Taylor  
Repertory Preservation Project, with major support from the Foundations of the  
Milken Families and the National Endowment for the Arts.

Le Sacre du Printemps (The Rehearsal) was revived during the Chase  
Celebration of American Dance in San Francisco presented by San Francisco  
Performances, the Yerba Buena Center for the Arts, with major funding  
from The Chase Manhattan Bank and the Lila Wallace Reader’s Digest Arts  
Partners Program, which is administered by the  
Association of Performance Arts Presenters.
Paul Taylor is not through yet.

Few artists of our time have had the profound impact on their art form that Mr. Taylor has had on dance over six decades. People in cities and towns throughout the world have seen and enjoyed live modern dance performances due largely to the far-reaching tours he pioneered as a virtuoso dancer in the 1950s. Fifty-three years after he made his first avant garde works, he has a collection of 128 dances performed by his own celebrated Company (now numbering 16 dancers) and the six-member Taylor 2, as well as renowned ballet and modern dance companies here and abroad. He has set movement to music so memorably that for legions it is impossible to hear certain orchestral works and popular songs and not think of his dances. He has influenced dozens of men and women who have gone on to create their own dances or establish their own troupes. As the subject of the widely seen documentary, Dancemaker, and author of a critically acclaimed autobiography, Private Domain, he has generously shed light on the mystery of the creative process. He remains among the most sought-after choreographers working today, commissioned by leading companies, theaters and presenting organizations the world over.

Mr. Taylor grew up near Washington, DC. He was a swimmer and a student of art at Syracuse University in the late 1940s until he discovered dance, which he began studying at Juilliard. By 1954 he had assembled a small company of dancers and was making his own dances. A commanding performer despite his late start, he joined the Martha Graham Dance Company in 1955 for the first of seven seasons as a soloist while continuing to choreograph on his own troupe. In 1959 he danced with New York City Ballet as guest artist in George Balanchine’s Episodes. Having created the slyly funny 3 Epitaphs in 1956, he captivated dancegoers in 1962 with his virile grace in the landmark Aureole, set rather cheekily not to modern music but to a baroque score, as Junction was the year before. After retiring as a performer, Mr. Taylor devoted himself fully to choreography in 1975, and masterworks poured forth: Esplanade… Cloven Kingdom… Airs… Le Sacre du Printemps (The Rehearsal)… Arden Court… Lost, Found and Lost… Last Look… Roses… Musical Offering… Company B… Even-tide… Piazzolla Caldera… Promethean Fire… and dozens more. Celebrated for uncommon musicality, he has set dances to Ragtime and reggae, tango and Tin Pan Alley, telephone time announcements and loon calls; turned supermarket music and novelty tunes into high art; and continually found inspiration in works of Bach, Handel and their baroque brethren.

During the 1950s Mr. Taylor began to bring modern dance to America’s college campuses and small towns as well as larger cultural centers, and in 1960 his Company made its first international tour. It has since performed in some 520 cities in 62 countries. In 1966 the Paul Taylor Dance Foundation was established to help bring Mr. Taylor’s works to the largest possible audience, facilitate his ability to make new dances, and preserve his growing repertoire.

Mr. Taylor has received every important
honor given to artists in the United States and France. He was awarded the National Medal of Arts by President Clinton in 1993. In 1992 he was a recipient of the Kennedy Center Honors and received an Emmy Award for Speaking in Tongues, produced by WNET/New York the previous year. In 1995 he received the Algor H. Meadows Award for Excellence in the Arts and was named one of 50 prominent Americans honored in recognition of their outstanding achievement by the Library of Congress’s Office of Scholarly Programs. He was elected to knighthood by the French government as Chevalier de l’Ordre des Arts et des Lettres in 1969 and was elevated to the ranks of Officier in 1984 and Commandeur in 1990. In January 2000 he was awarded France’s highest honor, the Légion d’Honneur, for exceptional contributions to French culture.

Mr. Taylor is the recipient of three Guggenheim Fellowships and has received honorary Doctor of Fine Arts degrees from California Institute of the Arts, Connecticut College, Duke University, The Juilliard School, Skidmore College, the State University of New York at Purchase, and Syracuse University. Awards for lifetime achievement include a MacArthur Foundation Fellowship – often called the “genius award” – and the Samuel H. Scripps American Dance Festival Award. Other awards include the New York State Governor’s Arts Award and the New York City Mayor’s Award of Honor for Art and Culture. In 1989 he was elected one of ten honorary American members of the American Academy and Institute of Arts and Letters.

Since 1968, when Aureole first entered the repertory of the Royal Danish Ballet, Mr. Taylor’s works have been licensed for performance by more than 75 companies worldwide.

In 1993 Mr. Taylor formed Taylor 2, which brings many of the choreographer’s masterworks to smaller venues around the world. Taylor 2 also teaches Taylor style in schools and workplaces and at community gatherings.

Mr. Taylor’s autobiography, Private Domain, originally published by Alfred A. Knopf and re-released by North Point Press and later by the University of Pittsburgh Press, was nominated by the National Book Critics Circle as the most distinguished biography of 1987. Mr. Taylor and his Company are the subject of Dancemaker, Matthew Diamond’s award-winning, Oscar-nominated film, hailed by Time as “perhaps the best dance documentary ever.”

PAUL TAYLOR DANCE COMPANY
“The American spirit soars whenever Taylor’s dancers dance,” says the San Francisco Chronicle.

The Paul Taylor Dance Company, established in 1954, has long been one of the world’s most sought-after dance troupes. It has represented the United States at arts festivals in more than 40 countries and has toured extensively under the aegis of the U.S. Department of State. The Company’s 1999 engagement in Chile was named the Best International Dance Event of the year by the country’s Art Critics Circle. In the summer of 2001 the Company toured in the People’s Republic of China and performed in six cities, four of which had never seen American modern dance before. In the spring of 2003 the Company mounted an award-winning four-week, seven-city tour of the United Kingdom.

While continuing to garner international acclaim, the Paul Taylor Dance Company performs more than half of each touring season in cities throughout the United States. New York, San Francisco and Durham host annual engagements. From March 2004 through November 2005 the Paul Taylor Dance Company and/or Taylor 2 performed in all 50 States to celebrate the Taylor Company’s 50th Anniversary. The unprecedented tour underscored the Taylor Company’s historic role as one of the early touring companies of American modern dance. The 50th Anniversary celebration also featured a Golden Quartet of commissioned dances.

Beginning with its first television appear-
ance for the “Dance in America” series in 1978, the Company has appeared on PBS in nine different programs, including the 1991 Emmy Award-winning Speaking in Tongues, and The Wrecker’s Ball — including Company B, Funny Papers, and A Field of Grass — which was nominated for an Emmy Award in 1997. In 1999 the PBS American Masters series aired Dancemaker, The Wrecker’s Ball and Speaking in Tongues are available on VHS; Dancemaker is also available on DVD.

COMPANY BIOS

BETTIE DE JONG (Rehearsal Director) was born in Sumatra, Indonesia, and in 1946 moved to Holland, where she continued her early training in dance and mime. Her first professional engagement was with the Netherlands Pantomime Company. After coming to New York City to study at the Martha Graham School, she performed with the Graham Company, the Pearl Lang Company, John Butler and Lucas Hoving, and was seen on CBS-TV with Rudolf Nureyev in a duet choreographed by Paul Taylor. Ms. de Jong joined the Taylor Company in 1962. Noted for her strong stage presence and long line, she was Mr. Taylor’s favorite dancing partner and, as Rehearsal Director, has been his right arm for the past 32 years.

RICHARD CHEN SEE is from the island of Jamaica where he studied ballet, modern and Afro-Caribbean dance. He has danced for companies in England, Jamaica and the United States, including Northern Ballet Theatre, Oakland Ballet, and Oberlin Dance Company/San Francisco. Mr. Chen See has worked professionally as a choreographer, children’s storyteller, dance teacher, and coach. He is also a kayak instructor/guide and often works with the physically disabled. His debut with the Paul Taylor Dance Company was at City Center in 1993.

MICHAEL TRUSNOVEC hails from Yaphank, New York. He began dancing at age 6, and attended the Long Island High School for the Arts. In 1992, he was honored by the National Foundation for Advancement in the Arts (youngARTS) and was named a Presidential Scholar in the Arts. In 1996, he received a B.F.A in Dance Performance from Southern Methodist University in Dallas. Professionally, he danced with Taylor 2 from 1996-1998, and has appeared with Cortez & Co. Contemporary/Ballet, and CorbinDances. Fall 1998 marked his debut with the Paul Taylor Dance Company. Mr. Trusnovec received a 2006 New York Dance and Performance Award (the Bessie) for his Body of Work during the 2005-06 Taylor season.

ANNMARIA MAZZINI began her dance studies in Allentown, Pennsylvania with Frances Evers, and earned her B.F.A. at the Meadows School of the Arts at Southern Methodist University. While working as an art model for painters and sculptors, she studied at The Taylor School and in 1995 joined Taylor 2. She has performed in dances of Karla Wolfangle, Juliette Soucie and Kim Gibilisco, and has been a guest artist with Corbin Dances and the Amy Marshall Dance Company as well as choreographing and performing her own work. She teaches on the road and at The Taylor School, and is an accomplished jewelry designer. Ms. Mazzini made her debut with the Paul Taylor Dance Company at the 1999 American Dance Festival in Durham, North Carolina.

ORION DUCKSTEIN is from Mansfield, Connecticut, where he began dancing after graduating from the University of Connecticut with a B.F.A. in acting. He has danced with the Sung-soo Ahn Pick Up Group, Peter Pucci, Robert Wood Dance, Amy Marshall Dance Company and Takehiro Ueyama. In addition to dance and theatre, he enjoys music and often brings his guitar on tour to play in his spare time. Mr. Duckstein joined Taylor 2 in October 1995. He made his debut with the Paul Taylor Dance Company in October 1999.

AMY YOUNG began her dance training at age ten in her hometown of Federal Way, Washington. She spent her senior year of high school studying at the Interlochen Arts Academy in Michigan prior to enter-
ing The Juilliard School in New York, where she earned a B.F.A. in 1996. She joined Taylor 2 in August of that year. Ms. Young enjoys teaching and has been on the faculty of Alaska Dance Theatre in Anchorage, Perry-Mansfield Performing Arts Camp, and Metropolitan Ballet of Tacoma and The Taylor School. She also dances with the Take Dance Company. Ms. Young made her debut with the Paul Taylor Dance Company at the Paris Opera House in January 2000.

ROBERT KLEINENDORST is originally from Roseville, Minnesota. He graduated from Luther College in 1995 with a B.A. in voice and dance. After moving to New York, he danced with the Gail Gilbert Dance Ensemble, and Cortez & Co. Mr. Kleinendorst also performed with Anna Sokolow's Players Projects at The Kennedy Center in Washington, D.C. Having studied at The Taylor School since 1996, he joined Taylor 2 in August 1998. Mr. Kleinendorst joined the Paul Taylor Dance Company in Fall 2000.

JULIE TICE was born and raised in Petersburg, Illinois, where she began her dance training and grew up dancing with the Springfield Ballet Company. She continued her training at the University of Michigan, where she earned a B.F.A. in dance with honors and performed works by Bill DeYoung, Peter Sparling, Martha Graham and Paul Taylor. She received a 2007 Emerging Artist Award from the University's School of Music, Theater and Dance. In New York, Ms. Tice has performed with various choreographers as well as choreographing and performing her own work. She became a scholarship student at The Taylor School in January 1999 and joined Taylor 2 in the Summer of that year. Fall 2000 marked Ms. Tice's debut with the Paul Taylor Dance Company.

JAMES SAMSON is a native of Jefferson City, Missouri. He received a B.F.A. in dance and a minor in business from Southwest Missouri State University. He went on to study as a scholarship student with the David Parsons New Arts Festival, the Alvin Ailey Summer Intensive, and the Pilobolus Intensive Workshop. Mr. Samson has danced for Charleston Ballet Theatre, Omaha Theatre Company Ballet, Omega Dance Company, New England Ballet and Connecticut Ballet. He joined the Paul Taylor Dance Company in February 2001.

MICHELLE FLEET grew up in the Bronx and began her dance training at age four. She attended Ballet Hispanico of New York during her training at Talent Unlimited High School. There she was a member of The Ballet Hispanico Jr. Company. Ms. Fleet earned her B.F.A. in dance from Purchase College in 1999 and received her M.B.A. in business management in 2006. She has performed in works by Bill T. Jones, Merce Cunningham, Kevin Wynn, and Carlo Menotti. Ms. Fleet joined Taylor 2 in Summer 1999. She made her debut with the Paul Taylor Dance Company in September 2002.

PARISA KHOBDEH born and raised in Plano, Texas, trained under Kathy Chamberlain and Gilles Tanguay. Ms. Khobdeh earned her B.F.A. from Southern Methodist University and, while a student at SMU and the American Dance Festival as a Tom Adams Scholar, worked with choreographers Robert Battle, Judith Jamison, and Donald McKayle, among others. She also attended Taylor and Graham Intensives in New York City. Ms. Khobdeh has choreographed dances to benefit human rights organizations, as well as for independent films. In July 2006 she made her New York theatrical debut at the Stella Adler Studios in the lead role of Lanford Wilson’s Burn This. She premiered with the Paul Taylor Dance Company at the American Dance Festival in Summer 2003.

SEAN PATRICK MAHONEY was born and raised in Bensalem, Pennsylvania. At age 12 he began training with Fred Knecht and by attending Princeton Ballet School on scholarship. He became an apprentice at American Repertory Ballet (ARB) and then became a featured dancer with the company. After graduating high school in 1993, he was chosen as one of the first members of Taylor 2. Mr. Mahoney later
danced for David Parsons, Alex Tressor, and Geoffrey Doig-Marx, and was in Radio City’s Christmas Spectacular. He returned to ARB under the direction of Graham Lustig and married his dance partner, Peggy Petteway. Mr. Mahoney rejoined Taylor 2 in Summer 2002. His debut with the Paul Taylor Dance Company was in January 2004.

JEFFREY SMITH was born in Rhode Island and began his performing career singing and tap dancing. Upon entering The Boston Conservatory as a musical theater major, he had the opportunity to perform works by Paul Taylor, José Limón, Sean Curran, and Anna Sokolow and later switched majors to graduate with a B.F.A. in dance performance. After graduating in 2001, He became a member of The Martha Graham Ensemble performing featured roles in Diversion of Angels, El Penitente, and the duet from A Dancer’s World and Betram Ross’s Nocturne. During this time he participated in The Taylor School Winter and Summer Intensives and became a member of Taylor 2 in March 2005. Mr. Smith made his debut with the Paul Taylor Dance Company in Cleveland in May 2005.

ERAN BUGGE is from Oviedo, Florida where she began her dance training at the Orlando Ballet School. She went on to study at the Hartt School of the University of Hartford under the direction of Peggy Lyman, graduating Summa Cum Laude with a B.F.A. in ballet pedagogy in 2005. She attended The Taylor School and the 2004 and 2005 Taylor Summer Intensives. Ms. Bugge has performed in works by Amy Marshall, Katie Stevinson-Nollet and Jean Grand-Maître. She was also a member of Full Force Dance Theatre and the Adam Miller Dance Project. She joined the Paul Taylor Dance Company in Fall 2005.

FRANCISCO GRACIANO, a native of San Antonio, Texas, began dancing and acting at an early age. He received a BFA in dance from Stephens College for Women (male scholarship), and scholarships from the Alvin Alley School and The Taylor School. He has been a member of TAKE Dance Company, Connecticut Ballet, Ben Munisteri Dance Company, Cortez & Co. Contemporary/Ballet and Pascal Rioult Dance Theater, and has worked with such choreographers as Max Luna III, A.C. Ciulla, and Richard Chen See, among others. He also appeared in the operas Aida and White Raven directed by Robert Wilson. Mr. Graciano joined Taylor 2 in February 2004 and made his debut with the Paul Taylor Dance Company in Granada, Spain in Summer 2006.

LAURA HALZACK grew up in Suffield, Connecticut and began her dance training at the age of four with Brenda Barna. She furthered her training at The School of the Hartford Ballet and studied at the Conservatory of Dance at Purchase College. Ms. Halzack graduated Summa Cum Laude with a degree in History from the University of New Hampshire in 2003. She then studied at the Hartt School and at The Taylor School’s 2004 Summer Intensive. She has performed with the Amy Marshall Dance Company and Syren Modern Dance and has enjoyed teaching in her home state. Ms. Halzack studied at The Taylor School for two years before joining the Paul Taylor Dance Company in Summer 2006.

JAMIE RAE WALKER began her ballet and modern dance training at age eight in Levittown, Pennsylvania and later she performed with the Princeton Ballet, now American Repertory Ballet. In 1991 she began training at the Central Pennsylvania Youth Ballet where she performed principal and soloist roles in many Balanchine ballets. In 1992 she was warded a scholarship by Violette Verdy at the Northeast Regional Dance Festival in Illinois. Ms. Walker joined Miami City Ballet in 1994 and performed principal and soloist roles in Balanchine and Paul Taylor dances until 2000. In 2001 she received a scholarship to attend The Taylor School and was also a part of the original cast of Twyla Tharp’s Broadway show, Movin’ Out. Ms. Walker joined Taylor 2 in Fall 2003, and became a member of the Paul Taylor Dance Company in Fall 2008.
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MERCHANDISE
Dancemaker, the Academy Award-nominated documentary about Paul Taylor, is available on VHS and DVD. Copies of Mr. Taylor’s acclaimed autobiography, Private Domain, and Paul Taylor Dance Company souvenir items, are also available. To order merchandise, call (212) 431-5562.

THE TAYLOR SCHOOL
Taylor style and repertoire classes are held throughout the year, taught by former and current Taylor Company members. In addition, the School offers Summer and Winter Intensives for students from around the world interested in a more in-depth study of Paul Taylor style and choreography. For information, schedules and registration forms, please write to The Taylor School, 552 Broadway, New York, NY 10012, or call (212) 431-5562.

TAYLOR 2
LATRA WILSON JUSTIN KAHAN
JOHN EIRICH NIC CEYNOWA
CHRISTINA LYNCH MARKHAM MADELYN HO

Mr. Taylor established Taylor 2 in 1993 to ensure that his works could be seen by audiences all over the world without regard to economic or logistical limitations. He worked with longtime colleague Linda Hodes to create a company that could accommodate performance requests, teach classes, and provide community outreach. With six dancers, Taylor 2 is the same size as Mr. Taylor’s original Company. In selecting repertoire for Taylor 2, Mr. Taylor chooses dances that reveal the broad spectrum of his work, sometimes reworking the original version to fit the smaller ensemble. Taylor 2’s engagements are flexible and are customized to meet the needs of each community. They often consist of master classes and lecture/demonstrations in addition to performances that often take place in non-traditional venues as well as in theaters. Former Taylor dancer Tom Patrick was named Rehearsal Director of Taylor 2 in 2004.

To find out more about Taylor 2, upcoming tour dates, and the latest Taylor 2 news please visit the Company on the web at www.paultaylor.org.

The taking of photographs or use of mechanical recording devices is strictly prohibited.
Program subject to change.
Latecomers will be seated only during intermissions.
Please turn off all pagers and cell phones during the performance.
“A fast-moving combination of skits and songs... The Capitol Steps on the whole provide a happy evening for those who yearn for the lighter side of the news and derive pleasure from seeing the mighty made ridiculous.”

–Lawrence Van Gelder, The New York Times

For program information, sneak previews, downloads, and links to The Capitol Steps on YouTube and MySpace: www.capsteps.com.

Tickets: (General Admission)
Producers Circle: $55 (Premium seating and post-event reception with the cast), Orchestra: $37.50
Balconies: $32 and $27 are available at the UMASS Fine Arts Center Box-Office: 413-545-2511 or 800-999-UMASS and www.wfcr.org.
Friday, November 21, 2008, 8 PM  
Top of Campus Marriott Center

**Avery Sharpe Trio**

Avery Sharpe, bass  
Onaje Allan Gumbs, piano  
Yoron Israel, drums

Program to be announced from the stage

**Avery Sharpe’s performance is part of the Jazz à la Mode Series, a collaboration between WFCR 88.5 FM/WNNZ 640 AM and the UMass Fine Arts Center.**
Avery Sharpe

Honesty. Clarity. Dignity. These are words that come to mind when you listen to the music of bassist-composer Avery Sharpe. In an age of ephemeral pop stars and flavor-of-the-month trends, Sharpe is a reminder of the lasting value of steadfast dedication and personal integrity. As the title of one of his tunes asserts, “Always Expect the Best of Yourself.”

Sharpe was born in Valdosta, Georgia and his first instrument was the piano. “I started playing when I was eight years old,” he recalls. “My mother was a piano player in the Church of God in Christ, and she gave lessons to everybody in the family—I’m the sixth of eight children—but it didn’t stick until it got to me.” He moved on to accordion and then switched to electric bass in high school.

Sharpe enrolled at the University of Massachusetts, where he studied economics and continued to play electric bass in gospel, funk, and rock groups. While at UMass, he met the jazz bassist Reggie Workman, who encouraged him to learn the acoustic bass. Sharpe adapted quickly to the big instrument, and within a few years he was performing with such notables as Archie Shepp and Art Blakey. In 1980, Sharpe auditioned with McCoy Tyner and won a spot in the pianist’s group. He worked with Tyner almost continuously for 20 years, playing hundreds of live gigs and appearing on more than 20 records.

Sharpe’s credits also include sideman stints with many other jazz greats, from Dizzy Gillespie to Pat Metheny, as well as leading his own groups. His first recording as a leader was the 1988 album Unspoken Words on Sunnyside Records, which was praised by critic Jim Roberts as “a diverse, challenging record that rewards repeated listening.” In 1994, he recorded Extended Family, the first CD of a trilogy which includes Extended Family II: Thoughts of My Ancestors (1995) and Extended Family III: Family Values (2001). All three were released on Sharpe’s own label, JKNM Records. His latest recording “Dragon Fly” on JKNM Records was released February 2005 features Winard Harper and Onaje Allan Gumbs, with special guests Jeri Brown and Chico Freeman.

All of Sharpe’s recordings feature his distinctive original compositions, which draw from the full range of his musical background. “The most important thing is depth,” he says. “You have to seek out what was happening before and try to understand it. In my music, I do things that are a little older as well as things that are contemporary. If I try to do just one type of music, that limits me. But the more bases I cover—the more experience I have in my life—the further I can go.”

He is equally adept at songs and longer compositional forms. In 1989, he wrote and conducted the soundtrack for the movie An Unremarkable Life; a decade later, his six-movement piece America’s Promise debuted in a concert-hall performance that featured Sharpe’s quintet and a gospel choir backed by the Springfield (Mass.) Symphony Orchestra. In the 1990’s Sharpe was commissioned by the Classical group Fideleo to write 3 extended works for them. Recently composed music for a one actor musical portrait based on the Harlem Renaissance titled “Raisin’ Cane”. He was commissioned by Chamber Music Plus (2004) to write the music for this portrait.

After receiving rave reviews at the famous Apollo Theater in NYC, this musical portrait will be on tour in 2008–2009 featuring the actress Jasmine Guy and the Avery Sharpe Trio, with Avery on bass, John Blake-violin and Kevin Sharpe-percussion. In 2006 Avery was commissioned by the Springfield Symphony Orchestra (Springfield, MA) to write a Jazz Concerto for Jazz Trio and Orchestra. The performance which premiered in the Spring of 2007 was a rousing success. The trio featured Kevin Eubanks-acoustic guitar (The Tonight Show’s musical director), Marvin “Smitty” Smith-drum (also of The Tonight Show’s Band) and Avery on Acoustic Bass.

Regardless of the setting, Avery Sharpe always brings both exceptional musical skill and unwavering honesty to the endeavor. “You can be sincere or you can be jive about what you do,” he says. “People might not be able to tell at first, but if you’re really sincere it will come through.”
Onaje Allan Gumbs, Piano

Onaje Allan Gumbs is one of the industry’s most respected and talented musical collaborators. He has worked for more than 30 years with an illustrious list of jazz, R&B and pop artists. In 1974, he created a special arrangement of “Stella By Starlight” for the New York Jazz Repertory Company as part of a concert honoring Miles Davis at Carnegie Hall. He followed that with live and recorded performances with such artists as Lenny White, Buster Williams, Cecil McBee and Betty Carter. In 1975, Onaje joined forces with trumpeter, Nat Adderley as part of his quintet contributing to the group’s releases on Atlantic and Steeplechase Records. Producer Nils Winter of Steeplechase Records, upon hearing Onaje’s improvisations, invited the young pianist to record a solo piano project entitled Onaje (http://www.onajeallangumbs.com/gumbscd.html).

In 1976, Onaje provided the arrangement for the song that was to become the signature piece for the late great vocalist Phyllis Hyman, “Betcha By Golly Wow.” In 1986, Onaje received the “Min-on Art Award”... “in recognition of his great contribution to the promotion and development of a new musical movement for people with the aim of the creation of Peace...” In 1997, Onaje again embraced the music of Miles Davis as conductor/arranger for Grammy Award winning vocalist Cassandra Wilson’s concert, “Travelin’ Miles.”

Onaje Allan Gumbs continues to contribute his talents as a keyboardist, composer, arranger and producer. As he states: “Music has a healing force that is immeasurable and I am committed to being a part of it.”

Yoron Israel, Drummer, Percussionist, Composer, Band Leader and Educator

Yoron Israel, a native Chicagoan, is one of the most gifted and sought after musicians in the music industry today. Yoron’s exciting and tasteful drumming, along with his compositional talents are spotlighted throughout his CD’s. They are “Basic Traneing” (Ronja Music Company), “Chicago” (Double Time), “Live at the Blue Note” (Half Note), “A Gift for You” (Ronja Music Company). All of these fine works have received enthusiastic praise from journalists, musical peers and fans alike.

Yoron Israel is currently the Assistant Chair of Percussion at Berklee College of Music in Boston Massachusetts. He received his Master of Music degree from Rutgers University ’97 (New Brunswick, NJ) and Bachelor of Music degree from Roosevelt University ’86 (Chicago IL). Formerly on the faculty at Rutgers University, William Paterson University and Mannes New School, Yoron continues to teach privately, conduct clinics, workshops, residencies and music camps throughout the world.

Yoron’s varied credits have earned recognition in such publications as Rocky Mount (NC) Telegraph, Outstanding Young Men of America, Down Beat, Jazz Times, Modern Drummer, Stick It, Percussive Notes, New York Times, Boston Globe and Boston Herald, among others.
Studies repeatedly show that children and young adults who study the arts are much more successful in life than those who do not. The arts teach important life skills—creative and critical thinking, self-discipline and individual expressiveness.

Last year over 10,000 students and community members participated in the Fine Arts Center’s performing and visual arts residencies, which allowed artists and students to connect in workshops, lectures and special demonstrations beyond public performances. This intellectual cultivation fuels learning, innovation and our creative economy.

The Fine Arts Center knows what it means to invest in our youth and communities but we need you to invest in us. Donations from our Friends have a direct impact on the quality and quantity of our outreach. Please make your gift and help us continue this good work. You may give online at www.umass.edu/giving.

Remember the power to change our world comes when we unite around a common passion.
Wednesday, December 3, 7:30 PM, 2008
Fine Arts Center Concert Hall

Soweto Gospel Choir

Musical Directors
David Mulovhedzi, Lucas Bok, Vusimuzi Shabalala

Performers

Producers:
Andrew Kay, and David Vigo
Beverly Bryer
Choreographer/Choir Master
Shimmy Jiyane
Costume Designer
Lyn Leventhorpe
Record Producer
Robin Hogarth
Tour Manager
Allan Maguire, and Mikki Lipson
Stage Manager
Maija Putans
Production Manager
Bernard Manchee
Lighting Operator
Bernard Manchee
Sound Operator
Paul Bardini

www.sowetogospelchoir.com

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Tonight’s performance is sponsored by Hasbro Games and WEIB 106.3 FM
AFRICAN SPIRIT

Jesu Ngowethu  
Traditional  
Sung in Zulu

Seteng Sediba  
Traditional  
Sung in Sotho

Izwi Lahlab’Inhliziyo Yami  
Traditional  
Sung in Zulu

Ke Na Le Modiso  
Traditional Arr: D Mulovhedzi  
Sung in Sotho

Ziyamazumekisi  
Traditional  
Sung in Zulu

Avulekile Amasango/One Love  
Composed by A Shabalala/B. Marley  
Sung in Zulu

River Jordan  
Composed by V Mahlasela

Ahuna Ya Tswanaang Le Jesu/Kammatla  
Traditional/Composed by L., Bok, V. Jiyane, J Mcineka, N Vilakazi,  
Sung in Sotho

I’ll Remember You  
Composed by B Dylan

This Little Light of Mine/N’Lilo Vuta Matanje/  
Traditional

Jerusalem  
Traditional  
Sung in Zulu

Nomalanga  
Composed by Mazwe Shabalala, EMI  
Music Publishing, Sung in Zulu

-- INTERMISSION --

Dance Segment – Woza Moyam  
Composed by L Bok/J Beukes

Canteen Segment  
Composed by J Beukes

Hakeleje  
Traditional  
Sung in Sotho

Woza Meli Wami  
Traditional  
Sung in Zulu

Tshepa Thapelo  
Trad Arr: J Mojapelo  
Sung in Sotho

Amazing Grace  
Traditional American

Bayete  
Traditional  
Sung in Zulu

Swing Down  
Traditional American

Africa  
Traditional  
Sung in Zulu

World In Union*  
Composed by Holst/Trad Arr: L Bok, M Mulovhedzi, V Msimango

*Program subject to change
About Soweto Gospel Choir

Formed in November 2002, by promoters/presenters Andrew Kay, David Vigo and Clifford Hocking, in association with Executive Producer/Director Beverly Bryer and Musical Director David Mulovhedzi, Soweto Gospel Choir’s six year existence has become a multi award-winning sensation.

In 2003 they won a Helpmann Award, Australia’s prestigious Performing Arts Award for “Best Contemporary Music Concert”. In May 2004 they won the 2003 American Gospel Music Award for “Best Choir” and in October they won the 2004 Gospel Music Award (also US based) for “Best International Choir”. In South Africa, their debut CD Voices From Heaven was nominated for a SAMA (South African Music Award). This CD reached the Number 1 spot on Billboard’s World Music Chart, within three weeks of its US release, debuting at Number 3. In 2007, the choir won a SAMA for best Live DVD for Blessed.

Wherever Soweto Gospel Choir has performed, be it Europe, Asia, Australia, the UK or the US it has wowed audiences. At the Edinburgh Festival in 2005 and 2007, it was amongst the top selling shows, with a fully booked season and five star reviews. It was listed as the critics’ choice in all major publications.

The choir has performed with internationally renowned artists Diana Ross, Celine Dion, Red Hot Chilli Peppers, Bono of U2, Peter Gabriel, Annie Lennox and Queen, to name a few. They have sung for Oprah Winfrey, President Bill Clinton, Archbishop Desmond Tutu and former President Nelson Mandela. They were invited guests on NBC’s “Today Show” as well as “The Tonight Show” with Jay Leno, a special honour for any artist. The choir has recorded with Robert Plant and Peter Gabriel.

On 11 February 2007, Soweto Gospel Choir received probably its greatest accolade, a Grammy Award for the CD Blessed, in the category “Best Traditional World Music”. They then went on to win their second Grammy Award in February 2008, for their CD African Spirit, in the same category.


The choir also has its own charity foundation, Nkosi’s Haven Vukani, which raises money to support AIDS orphans organisations that receive little or no government funding.

The choir continues to tour the world and perform to sell-out audiences and huge acclaim, and have been heralded as one of the most exciting artists to emerge in the international World Music market in recent years.

Soweto Gospel Choir is honoured to have as its patron, Archbishop Emeritus Desmond Tutu.

For more details: www.sowetogospelchoir.com

Company Bios

Beverly Bryer, Executive Producer/Director

Beverly Bryer has been involved in the entertainment industry for over 25 years, working with some of South Africa’s premier recording artists before moving on to become Managing Director of one of the country’s most successful music publishing companies. In 1985 she moved to Australia where she worked as Publicist/Event Co-ordinator for concert/theatre promoter Paul Dainty. On her return to South Africa she joined Big Concerts, the country’s top concert promotions company, as Media Coordinator. In 1997 Beverly produced a dance show called “African Moves”, which was invited to perform at the Melbourne International Festival, followed by a tour of Australia where it performed to full houses at the main commercial theatres. In August 2002 Beverly formed her own company, Eventsco, and was approached by Australian producers/promoters International Concert Attractions and Hocking & Vigo, to form an African gospel choir, now known as the Soweto Gospel Choir. Her position as Executive Producer/Director incorporates the producing, directing, management, marketing and publicising of the choir in South Africa in association with the Australian producers.

David Mulovhedzi, Founding Musical Director

David has been managing gospel choir groups in Soweto since 1986. A member of the Holy Jerusalem Evangelical Church, this creative and enterprising Soweto resident has entertained no less than The President of China; the Prince of Saudi Arabia and former President Nelson Mandela. His choir, the
Holy Jerusalem Choir, also performed at a Miss World pageant and for Michael Jackson during his South African tour. David’s extensive knowledge of African Gospel and traditional music has been extremely influential in the selection of the repertoire for this show. David says the most precious moment of his life was when they were in Los Angeles for the Grammy Awards and it was announced that Soweto Gospel Choir was the winner in the category of The Best Traditional World Music. “I was so excited, just to hold and lift the Grammy and thanked the Lord for his wonderful work.”

Lucas Deon Bok, Musical Director/Tenor/Bass Guitar
Lucas was first introduced to music by his father who is a guitarist. By the age of 7 he was playing the bass guitar and then moved on to acoustic guitar and joined a church choir. This talented young man writes music, plays many instruments and sings hauntingly. He has performed successfully with a group called ‘In Harmony’ and in 1995 he participated in a project called Gospel Explosion which he found inspiring. In 1999 he was employed as the music director of the Berea Christian Tabernacle (AFM) and he says this experience helped him grow as a musician and a composer. Lucas is no longer a regular touring member but still takes a major role in musical direction of the choir, and still performs with the choir where possible.

Vusimuzi Shabalala, Musical Director/Tenor/Keyboards
The choir’s other Musical Director, Vusi was born in Madadeni in Newcastle, Natal - one of five brothers brought up in a Christian family, all singers. He started playing organ in his church in Natal and after completing his matriculation he studied music and piano for two years at Fuba Music School but owing to financial difficulties, was unable to complete his third year of study. In 2001 he travelled to Boston to play piano for a friend of his, where he stayed for a month before returning to South Africa where he formed a group called Mecsa Sounds of Praise. He held the position of voice trainer and musical director under Peter Mbuli. Vusi has worked with local gospel star Benjamin Dube, as well as the Grace Choir, Thembinkosi Booi and Lundi Tyamara. Vusi says “My original dream was to be a sound engineer but God knew where he wanted him to be now and He knows where I’m heading”.

Shimmy Jiyane, Choreographer/Choir Master/Tenor/Dancer
As long as he can remember, Shimmy has wanted to dance. And he has realised his dream with performances in shows with the fabulous Tina Turner and South African stars like Vicki Samson, and choreographers Adele Blank, David Matamela and Debbie Rakusin. In fact it was David and Debbie who took Shimmy to greater heights, recognising his inherent talents and turning his natural exuberance into quality performances in contemporary jazz and traditional dance. 1997 he was a member of Vusa Dance Company’s ‘African Moves’ which performed to capacity audiences at the Melbourne International Festival. He was nominated for a FNB Vita Award (Dance) and he has appeared on numerous stage and TV shows. This was followed in 1998 by a nationwide tour of Australia. Shimmy joined Soweto Gospel Choir in 2002 and has emerged as one of its lead tenors. He is now choir master as well as choreographer, dancer and singer. He’s certainly come a long way since that early dream.

Jabulile Diadla, Alto/Percussion/Narrator
Jabulile was born in Umbali Unit 18, a large location in Pietermaritzburg, and is a member of the Apostolic Church. She started singing while still at school and after matriculating, joined the group Die Bafanas based in Durban. It was while a member of this group that Jabulile realised she had a talent and decided to move to Johannesburg to further her career. Once there she met various artists and directors and joined Lubikha Community Theatre. She has since backed many local stars including Busi Mhlongo and Jeff Malleke and has furthered her career by studying drama at the renowned Market Theatre. As well as singing in the choir, Jabulile plays percussion, another of her many talents.

Ntombentsha Jeho Fata, Soprano/Dancer
Born in a small town called Alice, in the Eastern Cape, Jeho was determined to study speech, drama and voice in the city of Johannesburg. Her talent was quickly spotted and her first show ‘Street-Sisters’ won an award at the Grahamstown Festival and toured Europe. She performed in the hit show “Umoja” for many of the local performances, but Gospel music has always been her first love.
and The Soweto Gospel Choir is the perfect platform for Jeho’s talents.

**Nkosinathi Hadebe, Bass**

Nkosi started working in church choirs in his birth town of Mnambithi, Natal and when he came to Johannesburg he continued this work. In the big city he expanded his musical experience to include Jazz and Stage and worked with some great legends in Afro-Jazz and Gospel. He was involved with the revival of the Junior Manhattan Brothers group which was hugely successful in the sixties. He performed with jazz legends Dorothy Masuka, Dolly Rathebe and Sophie Mngoma. Then he got an opportunity to perform in London, U.K. with Tsepo Tshola and Deborah Fraser to celebrate South Africa’s Freedom Day. He also appeared in the movie “The Drum”.

**Noluthando ‘Thando’ Jiyane, Soprano**

This devout Christian was born in a small village called Kwazakhele near the windy city of Port Elizabeth. Thando started singing at the age of 8 in the Sunday school choir and says that she knew immediately that this is what she wanted to do for the rest of her life! Her strong, clear voice, bubbly personality and obvious talent will ensure that she gets her wish. She has performed with many choirs and as a backing singer on tracks from Jazz to Gospel.

**Thembisa Khuzwayo, Soprano/Dancer**

Thembisa grew up in Ladysmith, KwaZulu Natal. She studied at Durban’s Inanda Seminary and obtained a diploma in Speech and Drama at the Soiyikwa Institute of African Theatre. She then studied dance at Sylvia Glasser’s dance school ‘Moving into Dance Mophatong’, and obtained a diploma in the theory and practice of dance teaching. She has performed locally in the musical ‘Umoja’ and with top South African musicians such as Busi Mhlongo, Philip Tabane and Yvonne Chaka-Chaka, and has toured Europe extensively. She loves working with The Soweto Gospel Choir and believes it is one of her greatest blessings ever.

**Sipokazi Luzipo, Alto/Narrator**

This young extrovert auditioned for ‘Popstars’ and attended the workshop ‘Siyabi Phezulu’! Sipokazi has won many school and church choir competitions and her determination to be a professional singer is only matched by her passion for education and her belief. She plans to go to University to study a Bachelor of Commerce to support her while she pursues her dream of being a professional singer. Gospel and traditional music are the genres she enjoys most. She is a devoted Christian who believes her God-given talent will take her far in life.

**Bongani Mabaso, Bass**

Bongani was born in Ladysmith, KwaZulu Natal and grew up singing in the local church and school choirs. After his schooling he moved to Johannesburg where he met many jazz legends namely Sophie Mngoma, Dolly Rathebe, Mara Louw at Dorkay House where he performed with the Junior Manhattan Brothers. He had the honour of performing for President Thabo Mbeki at Gallagher Estate. He performed with Johnny Clegg in Portugal and the UK and has backed many gospel stars. Bongani got the opportunity to take part in the South African movie production “Dum” starring Taye Diggs and other American stars.

**Vusumuzi Madondo, Bass**

Born in Ladysmith, Vusi first arrived in Soweto in 1996 with the specific aim to work with a gospel choir. After many disappointments, this versatile singer has finally attracted attention with the Soweto Gospel Choir and his hopes are now bright for the future. His magnificent bass voice is his greatest talent.

**Warren Mahlangu, Bass/Dancer/Percussionist**

Warren grew up in Alexandra Township. He has always been passionate about the performing arts, working as a dancer, singer and drummer. At age 16 he joined Amakhono Wesintu as a dancer and singer. He has participated in dance workshops with the renowned South African dance company Moving Into Dance Mophatong. He featured on the National AIDS Day song with Tu Nokwe and DJ Mphulo amongst others. He joined Soweto Gospel Choir in 2005 and hopes to develop his professional career further with the Choir.

**Tshepo Maitisa, Tenor/Percussionist/Dancer**

Tsepho started playing the drums at school when he was just 12 years old. In 1996 he started to work with Tu Nokwe Productions as a performer. In 2004 he worked with the Moses Tshwane Moleleka Arts Foundation where he was a leading artist. After touring
South Africa in 1995 with the National Rugby team, beating the drums for the tour, he joined the Soweto Gospel choir as a singer, dancer and percussionist.

**Sibongile Makgathe, Alto**

Sibongile started singing at the age of 13 in the church choir and was introduced to the world of professional music in 1989 as a backing vocalist. She is a founding member of the well-known Gospel group, ‘Joyous Celebration’. She has worked with many of the great names of African music, including Miriam Makeba; Hugh Masekela; Sibongile Khumalo; Gloria Bosman; Angelina Keijo. Sibongile toured with Michael Jackson and was involved with the Award-winning actor/director, John Kani in a musical play ‘The Lion, the Lamb’.

**Thuli Jeanette Mazibuko, Alto**

Thuli was born in Soweto and is another performer who started her career with the well-known youth development organisation Thabisong Youth Club. No stranger to international performance, she has performed in France, Spain, Portugal, London, Australia and India, as well as around South Africa. She participated in the Masakhane Arts and Culture Youth Development Project. Thuli aims to develop her talents as a singer and is inspired by gospel and traditional music.

**Lungisani Omega Mhlongo, Tenor/Bass**

Lungisani was born in Kwa-Zulu Natal. His musical inspiration is Thulani Mthethwa of Petermartitzburg Choral Society and he has collaborated with many local Jazz and Blues Veterans, including the late Sophie Mgcina and Dolly Radebe. As a member of the Junior Manhattan Brothers, he discovered the music of the 50’s and the group was featured in the film ‘Drum’. Lungisani studied at the Ishashalazi Drama College, has performed at The Windybrow theatre and is an award winning Poet. When not on tour with the choir, he works for a number of shelters including the Rosca Children’s Shelter and Nkosi’s Haven, volunteering as a Sport and Recreation manager and teaching basic music and drama skills. A career highlight was performing with Tsepo Tshola & Deborah Fraser in London as part of the South African Freedom Day celebrations.

**Thandile Mnduzulwane, Soprano**

Thandile was born in Soweto and started exploring her gift for singing in church during offering time. She joined the high school choir and received a certificate in a talent contest for vocals. The following year a dance group she choreographed won an award for African and Modern Dance. She studied Contemporary Music at Allenby Campus where she majored in vocals. It was here she wrote her first song which was chosen to open the launch of a Contemporary Music class in 1998. She continued to sing for church choirs, singing solos and back-up vocals. In 1999 she recorded her first album with Base 2 Base which received good airplay on radio. Thandile is still striving to be the best she can be on this journey of life and finds it goes well doing it while focused on God.

**Goodwill Mandelenkosi “Mandala” Modawu, Bass/Drummer**

Mandla was born in Pretoria in 1978 and grew up in Witbank, Mpumalanga. He began singing at 8 years old in Sunday School at the local Church Apostolic Faith Mission. At age 11 he helped form a youth choir called “The Angels” and went on teaching himself to play drums. Whilst with the Choir he was asked by the Faith Tabernacle Church to be their drummer, singer as well as music director. He has worked with artists locally in Jazz, Afropop and Gospel music. In 2003, Mandla registered with the Central Johannesburg College in Parktown, to study a popular music course with a major in drumming. In the same year, Mandla met Lucas Bok who recommended that he join the Soweto Gospel Choir. He believes working with the Soweto Gospel Choir is a blessing and a once in a lifetime experience.

**Original Velile Msimango, Bass/Dancer**

Original is a man going places – he has performed extensively both throughout South Africa and internationally, representing the country in Leipzig Germany with some distinction. In 1999 he performed with ‘African Rhythms’ around Europe and this group won a gold medal at the ‘International Des Pyreenes Festival’. He has travelled to Belgium, Spain and France and in December 2001, he was selected as one of four members to represent South Africa in an exchange with Japan in the Peace Boat which travelled to Taiwan; Kobe; Brunei; Seychelles; Singapore; Kenya; Madagascar. Early in 2002 his group was again invited to the Des Pyrenees Festival in Europe and
they again won the award as the best group. This is all a far distance from the dusty Soweto youth club of Thabisong, where he started his career.

**Bongani Ncube, Bass Guitarist/Tenor**

Bongani comes from Soweto and hopes to touch many souls with songs of joy, peace and harmony through his music. He has been working professionally in the music business for three years and has proven to be a multi-talented artist. He plays acoustic and electric bass, drums and is an alto and tenor vocalist. He has worked with many well-known South African artists, like Khaya Mahlangu, Deborah Fraser, Kelli Khumalo to name a few. Bongani also has a strong interest in fine art and spends his spare time drawing and painting.

**Melusi Ndawonde, Tenor/Dancer**

Melusi was born in Ladysmith, Kwa Zulu Natal. He developed his love of music and dance whilst completing his schooling. School was where he started his singing career as a prominent member of the school choir. He toured with the Thabisong Youth Club doing what he loves most, singing and dancing, and has been a member of Soweto Gospel Choir since its inception in 2002, touring with them to Australia, New Zealand, France, Norway and Portugal.

**Maserame Ndindwa, Alto**

Maserame started singing at the age of 16 at the Abundant Life Bible Church. The choir from the church was invited to perform in New York during 1997 and this fantastic experience saw Maserame appointed to lead singer. In 2001 she came to Johannesburg to attend Wits College to study as a sound engineer, but lack of finance found her unable to follow that dream. Her voice, however, is her trademark and she was spotted by leading local Gospel singer Vicky Vilakazi who invited her to perform. Always keen to further her studies, Maserame enrolled recently for a course in Drama and dance at the Bavukile Cultural Centre in Klerksdorp.

**Linda Nxumalo, Tenor/Dancer**

Determination has been the key to Linda’s success as he has tried to use song and dance to pull him out of poverty. Born in Soweto he joined the Thabisong Youth Club to keep off the streets – and he showed a natural talent for both song and dance. This talent and determination has seen him perform in France, Spain and Belgium as well at many centres in South Africa – but he is determined to make enough money to go to college one day.

**Fanizile Nzuza, Bass**

Fanizile comes from Ladysmith in Kwa Zulu Natal and joined the Sunday School Choir at the age of nine. At an early age he moved to Gauteng seeking greener pastures. He met jazz legends like Dorothy Masuka and Abigail Khubeke at the historic Dorkay House music development centre in downtown Johannesburg. He went onto perform as part of the Junior Manhattan Brothers. He has worked as backing vocalist for many popular performers, notably Johnny Clegg, and many other top South African gospel artists. He has performed in the UK, France, Norway and Portugal with the Soweto Gospel Choir which he feels has brought even more passion to his music.

**Linda Sambo, Soprano**

Sowetan-born, Linda grew up in a family church where her grandfather was a pastor. This influence led her to start her singing career in the Holy Jerusalem Choir, and with them performed for Nelson Mandela at Sun City. She has since performed at many public concerts in the past few years and she scored a coup by joining the Soweto Gospel Choir in 2005.

**Kevin Williams, Tenor/Lead Guitar**

Kevin was introduced to music at the age of nine by his family who are musically orientated. He was taught how to play drums and bass guitar by family members and then began to play music full time in local church choirs. His dedication to music led him to teaching music to youngsters in the local church and running musical workshops at the age of 15 years. After completing high school he enrolled for a Music Degree at University of Natal where he majored in vocals. He has worked as a vocal arranger/producer and composer for recording artists and musicians. He joined the Soweto Gospel Choir in 2006 and is excited to be part of a group that is taking gospel music around the world. Kevin comes from Pietermaritzburg in Kwa Zulu Natal.
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**Patron Services**

- Refreshments
- Concessions are available before the performance and during intermission for most Center Series Concert Hall events. For patrons in our wheelchair section, please notify an usher and they will be happy to bring the refreshments to you.

- Restrooms
- Restrooms are located on the lower level of the Fine Arts Center Concert Hall adjacent to the University Gallery and in the Concert Hall main lobby. When available there are additional restrooms in the Rand Theater area. Fully accessible restrooms are available in the Concert Hall and Bowker Auditorium. Restrooms in the Concert Hall for the mobility impaired are located in the lobby and the refuge area outside section 3 on house right.

- Drinking Fountains
- Drinking fountains are located on the lower level of the Concert Hall near the restrooms and in the lobby.

- Late Seating
- Patrons arriving after the start of the performance will be seated at an appropriate break.

- Pagers and Cell Phones
- Please turn off all pagers and cell phones when entering the seating area.

- On Call Service
- Doctors and persons needing emergency call service are asked to leave their name and seat location with the box office. If you keep a pager service are asked to leave their name and seat location with the box office. If you keep a pager, please use the silent, vibration option.

- Cameras and Recording Devices
- The taking of photographs or recording the performance in any way is strictly prohibited.

**For Hearing-Impaired Patrons**

- Assisted listening devices: Induction loops and headsets are available for patrons with hearing impairments and may be checked out with an ID in the lobby prior to the performance. Compatible with most ALS systems and in compliance with the ADA. A credit card, driver’s license, or valid student ID will be held as security while devices are in use.

**Emergency Closing**

- In case of emergency, the lighted, red, exit sign near your seat is the shortest route to the exterior of the building. For your safety, please check the location of the exit closest to your seat and review the evacuation map included in this playbook. Also, follow the directions provided by the ushers.

**Accessible Parking**

- An accessible-parking permit or plates must be visible to parking attendants.

**For Your Viewing Pleasure**

- Check out what’s on view in the University Gallery. The University Gallery is located on the lower level of the Concert Hall and is open one hour prior to the start of performances and during intermission. The Gallery is also open to the public Tuesday through Friday, 11am to 4:30pm, and Saturday and Sunday, 2 to 5pm.

**Performance Cancellation**

- Fine Arts Center performances are rarely canceled and only in the case of severe weather. If a performance is canceled, you can call the Box Office at 1-800-599-UMAS or 545-2511 or tune in to the following radio and television stations: public radio station WFCR 88.5FM, WRRX 100.9FM/WPNI 1430AM, WHMP 99.9FM, WMUA, WRSI 93.3FM, WHYN, WMAS, WLLW-TV22 and WGGB-TV40. If a performance is canceled, patrons may exchange tickets for another event (subject to availability), may receive a credit on their account, or may request a refund. Please recycle your playbook in the lobby.
Evacuation Procedures

In the event of an emergency requiring evacuation of the building, procedures are in place to ensure that the audience can exit safely.

Sections 4, 5, 6
Exit through the lobby.

Sections 1, 2, 3 & Pit
Exit toward stage.

Note: Interior house conditions may necessitate alternate exit routes.

Mezzanine
1, 2, 3
Exit rear through lobby.

Balconies
1, 2 exit toward stage, up two flights and down interior fire escape
Evacuation Procedures
Bowker Auditorium

Note: Interior
house conditions may
necessitate alternate
exit routes.

Sections
A - K
and the Pit
exit toward
stage.

Sections
L - U
exit toward
lobby.

West side
exit stairwell
left.

East side
exit stairwell
right.

Balconies
my source for sharing stories from around the globe with people of western New England.
—Maria Hinojosa, NOW Senior Correspondent

WGBY, public television for western New England, is your source for stories from your neighborhood to around the world. Whether it’s reporting on child marriage in developing countries or sharing diverse experiences and perspectives with aspiring local producers of the Latino Youth Media Institute, WGBY connects the people of our region with ideas, events and each other. Learn more at wgby.org.

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