



### ***Raise Your Voice***

with performer and interpreter Shirley Childress Saxton of *Sweet Honey in the Rock* and special guest artist Aaron Kubey, Executive Director of the National Theatre of the Deaf

A daylong exploration of ASL interpreting for performance and the relevance of music in the lives of the deaf and hard-of-hearing

Saturday, November 1, 2008

9:30 am – 4:15 pm

University of Massachusetts, Amherst  
Campus Center Room 101

### **WORKSHOP DESCRIPTIONS**

#### ***A Vision of Song in Sign*** – Shirley Childress Saxton

What is a song? How is music and singing integral to the culture of many people? What is a Spiritual? A Blues? A Gospel? A Rap? Can singing be celebratory, healing, helpful?

For many Deaf and Hard-of-Hearing people the language and nuance of song is not always apparent; indeed, some Deaf people consider music and singing part of “hearing people” culture and question its value or usefulness. This workshop is for those Deaf and Hard-of-Hearing people who are curious to learn more of song; who are interested to “sing in Sign-language” and learn more of the nature of song. Through dialogue and lecture, we will discuss the artistic expression of singing, and the contribution, influence, and significance of music and song in our lives. We will discuss songs as a source of historical information, current events, and humanitarian concerns. The idea is to engage those Deaf people who are new to singing as well as those people who have enjoyed musical expression in an exploratory, moving, and participatory experience.

#### ***The Art of Sign Interpreting Song*** – Shirley Childress Saxton

Have you often wanted to Sign interpret songs but were unsure how to proceed or hesitant to dare?

This workshop will encourage the Sign interpreter to reveal your inner artist and help guide you to a fuller and more complete expression of Sign interpreting music and singing. We will develop techniques to help render visually the emotional and rhythmic nature of singing, enhance your stage presence, and convey the total message of a song. Be prepared to explore and participate in building the craft and developing the creative process of the art of Sign interpreting song.

#### ***Creativity with Sign Language*** – Aaron Kubey and the National Theatre of the Deaf

Intended for Deaf performers, theatre sign language interpreters, interpreting students, sign language students, and actors, this workshop trains participants on dealing with the challenges presented by “theatricalized” American Sign Language and on working with visual theatre techniques. Given its strong emphasis on freedom of movement, workshop participants should come dressed in loose, comfortable clothing and prepared for some light physical activity.

## Schedule of Events

Saturday, November 1

9:30am - 11:30am *A Vision of Song in Sign*

Instructor: Shirley Childress Saxton

Open to hearing and deaf participants and ASL interpreters. This workshop is geared toward members of the deaf community.

11:30am - 12:30pm Lunch break

12:30pm - 2:30pm *The Art of Sign Interpreting Song*

Instructor: Shirley Childress Saxton

Open to hearing and deaf participants proficient with ASL. This workshop is geared toward sign language interpreters.

2:30pm - 2:50pm Break

2:50pm - 4:15pm *Creativity with Sign Language*

Instructor: Aaron Kubey and NTD actors

Open to hearing and deaf participants proficient with ASL. This workshop is geared toward sign language interpreters.

### Optional Activities

4:30pm Open sound check for Sweet Honey with time for questions

8pm Sweet Honey in the Rock performs at the UMass Fine Arts Center Concert Hall

Presented by the Fine Arts Center at UMass Amherst in collaboration with UMass Disability Services.



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## GUEST ARTISTS

**Shirley Childress Saxton** is a veteran professional Sign Language interpreter having learned American Sign Language from her Deaf parents. She has twenty-five years of experience providing Sign interpreting services in a wide range of life situations including education, employment, legal, medical, and performing arts/music. She holds a Bachelor's degree in Deaf Education from the University of Massachusetts, Amherst and is a certified member of the Registry of Interpreters of the Deaf, Inc. She has been recognized for her interpreting work and services to the community by awards from Deaf advocacy organizations including Women Unlimited, Deafpride, Inc. and the Silent Mission at Shiloh Baptist Church in Washington, D.C. She has authored three writings on her experiences as a child of Deaf adults (C.O.D.A.) and her work as a sign language interpreter that can be found in the following publications: *We Who Believe In Freedom: Sweet Honey In The Rock...Still On The Journey, Continuum: The First Song Book of Sweet Honey In The Rock*, and *Souls of My Sister: Black Women Break Their Silence, Tell Their Stories, and Heal Their Spirit*.

### Aaron Kubey

Aaron Kubey became the new Executive Director of the National Theater of the Deaf in November, 2007. He came to the position from the New York Deaf Theatre in New York City, where he was artistic director. Throughout his career, Kubey has worked on numerous television, film, and theatrical productions. Kubey earned his BFA in theatre studies at DePaul University in Chicago, where he was the first deaf student to be admitted to and graduate from the University. In succeeding years, he worked with the NTD's Los Angeles Little Theatre of the Deaf, Deaf West in Los Angeles, and the Centerlight Theatre in Chicago before joining the New York Deaf Theatre. Kubey states, "It is my greatest hope that I can play a significant role in reviving and strengthening deaf theater, as well as become a role model for our future generations."

### Special Performance Opportunity



*Sweet Honey in the Rock* performs at the UMass Fine Arts Center Concert Hall on Saturday, November 1<sup>st</sup> at 8pm.

Special discounted tickets for workshop registrants. Please see registration form.

## REGISTRATION

Registration Fee:

Morning session only	\$10
Full Day	\$35
(includes morning session)	

Total fee \$\_\_\_\_\_

Options:

Boxed Lunch	\$10
vegetarian _____	
Performance Ticket	\$25

**.55 CEUs (Professional Studies) \$10 additional fee**

Total options: \$\_\_\_\_\_

TOTAL DUE \$\_\_\_\_\_

Access Needs:

\_\_\_ wheelchair \_\_\_ large-print \_\_\_ interpreter

To register call: 413-545-2511; 1800-999-UMAS  
TTY: 413-577-3190

Email: hark@acad.umass.edu

or mail or fax this form and pay by check or credit card  
FAX: 413-545-0132

Make checks payable to:

*The University of Massachusetts* and mail to:

Programming Office  
15 Curry Hicks  
UMass  
100 Hicks Way  
Amherst, MA 01003-9267

Credit Card payment info:

MC  VISA ACCOUNT #: \_\_\_\_\_

EXP. DATE: \_\_\_\_\_

SIGNATURE: \_\_\_\_\_

PRINT NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_

Northeastern University Regional Interpreter Education Center is approved by the RID CMP to sponsor Continuing Education Activities. This workshop is offered for .55 CEUs or ACET credits in the Content Area of Professional Studies and has an Instruction level of extensive. There is a \$10 processing fee for those participants requesting CEUs or ACET credits. Northeastern University Regional Interpreter Education Center is funded by the U.S. Department of Education Rehabilitation Services Administration, Interpreter Training Program Grant # H160A050002. This workshop is sponsored in part by NURIEC

