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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Cultural council and VSA Arts of Massachusetts’ ADA Cultural
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Masterpieces initiative, with additional support from the six New
England state arts agencies. Funded in part by the University of
Massachusetts Amherst Alumni Association.

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
Shiloah 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 1st 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)

Options:
Boxed Lunch $10
vegetarian

Total fee

.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 _______________________________________

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
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