Harvest Time
A Seasonal Celebration of African American Sacred Music

Featuring
The New Spiritual Gifts Workshop Choir

Performing works by
Beverly Brown
Leonard Burks
Drene Ivy
Brenda Johnson
Nathaniel Williams

Saturday, October 24, 2009, 4:00 p.m.
Morning Star Baptist Church
10250 Shaker Boulevard

Cleveland State University
Dear Friends:

On behalf of the new Spiritual Gifts: Unity and Diversity in One Body workshop choir, I would like to welcome you to our fall 2009 concert. Spiritual Gifts is a project of the Initiative for the Study of Religion and Spirituality in the History of Africa and the Diaspora (RASHAD), which is housed in the Department of History at Cleveland State University (CSU). I am the founder and director of RASHAD, and it was my great pleasure to work with other CSU alumni and friends to make our collective vision for Spiritual Gifts a reality in the summer of 2009.

On Saturday, July 11, 2009, Geraldine Hardin-Washington, Drene Ivy, and William D. Simpson met with me to discuss the preliminary plans for Spiritual Gifts. In July and August 2009, Sherlynn Allen-Harris, Beverly J. Brown, Lana J. Miller, Angela Thompson, and Audrey Wiggins joined the Rev. Dr. Earl Preston, Jr. and other advisory committee members in charting a course for the new project that would be in keeping with its mission: to create opportunities for individuals to study and perform the music of the historic African American church—including spirituals, anthems, hymns, gospel, and contemporary Christian folk songs and other religious works from Africa and the Diaspora. We also made plans to develop curriculum materials related to African American religious music and history.

Spiritual Gifts held the first of its six workshop sessions on Monday, September 14, 2009, at Trinity Cathedral in downtown Cleveland. Approximately 40 vocalists and instrumentalists shared their abundant talent, training, and performance experience in the fall 2009 sessions, which focused on the compositions of five Cleveland-based composers: Beverly Brown, Leonard G. Burks, Drene Ivy, Brenda Johnson, and Nathaniel Williams, Jr. Both Brown and Williams are alums of the CSU Music Department, and all of our musical artists are active in numerous religious, educational, and cultural institutions. Four CSU alums in the choir have agreed to contribute curriculum materials to our 2010 online Educator’s Guide, and we will release a recording of the Harvest Time 2009 concert later this year.

Ideally, the Harvest Time concert will become an annual event, as we continue to showcase the talents of individuals with connections to faith communities in Northeast Ohio while promoting economic development and entrepreneurship. Thank you for supporting our efforts to reap a harvest of musical and cultural blessings that others will feast on and learn from for years to come.

Sincerely,

Regennia

Dr. Regennia N. Williams
Associate Professor of History, Cleveland State University
Founder and Director, RASHAD
Executive Producer, Harvest Time 2009
Acknowledgements

Spiritual Gifts gratefully acknowledges the generous support of the following:

Dr. Gregory Sadlek, Dean
College of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences
Cleveland State University

Dr. Elizabeth Lehfeldt, Chair
Department of History
Cleveland State University

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Cleveland State University

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Office of Institutional Diversity
Cleveland State University

Trinity Cathedral, Episcopal Diocese of Cleveland

The Morning Star Baptist Church
Rev. Dr. Earl Preston, Jr., Pastor

Pat Catan’s Craft Center
Bedford, Ohio

“The Band”
Elder Rashawn Mathews, Piano
Drene Ivy, Organ
Eric Byous, Drums
Joshua Williams, Drums

Hostesses from the Following Congregations:
Christian Light Church
Good Hope Missionary Baptist Church
Hundredfold Church
Harvest Time
Featuring the Spiritual Gifts Workshop Choir
Saturday, October 24, 2009, 4:00 p.m.
Morning Star Baptist Church - Cleveland, Ohio

Praise Give to God.................................................................Pastor Nathaniel Williams, Jr.
Welcome..........................................................................................Dr. Regennia N. Williams
Invocation..........................................................................................Rev. Dr. Earl Preston, Jr.
Pastor, Morning Star Baptist Church

Part I: The Spiritual Gifts Workshop Choir

Every Day Is Thanksgiving.............................................................Leonard Gregory Burks
Spirit of God..................................................................................Leonard Gregory Burks
He Called Me to Be...........................................................................Beverly J. Brown
I Love You So Much.......................................................................Beverly J. Brown
Lift Jesus Up......................................................................................Drene Ivy
Awesome God..................................................................................Drene Ivy
Spiritual Interlude............................................................................Drene Ivy, Piano

Part II: The Spiritual Gifts Workshop Choir

Give and It Shall Be Given Unto You..............................................Brenda E. Johnson
The Lord Is My Shepherd...............................................................Brenda E. Johnson
They That Wait on the Lord............................................................Pastor Nathaniel Williams, Jr.

Closing Remarks..............................................................................Dr. Regennia N. Williams
I Can’t Thank Him Enough..............................................................Brenda E. Johnson
Benediction....................................................................................Rev. Dr. Earl Preston, Jr.

"Meet-the-Artists" Reception - Fellowship Hall
CALL FOR SUBMISSIONS

The Initiative for the Study of Religion and Spirituality in the History of Africa and the Diaspora (RASHAD) is seeking contributions for

AFRICAN RELIGIONS & PHILOSOPHY:
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A Special 2010 Issue of

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Dr. Regennia N. Williams, Founder and Editor
Judy MacKeigan, Managing Editor

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Submit manuscripts to: African.Diaspora@csuohio.edu

Deadline for Submissions: November 15, 2009
Notification of Acceptance: March 15, 2010
Publication Date: Fall 2010

For more information, call (216) 523-7182.

“Since people are so intimately bound up with their religious life and outlook, their history constitutes the history of their religion. This is an area of study which calls for interdisciplinary cooperation between historians, anthropologists, and theologians.”

—Rev. John S. Mbiti, Ph.D., 1969

From the introduction to African Religions and Philosophy
The Journal of Traditions and Beliefs
Dr. Regennia N. Williams, Editor

The Journal of Traditions and Beliefs is an annual publication of the Initiative for the Study of Religion and Spirituality in the History of Africa and the Diaspora (RASHAD). Other RASHAD projects include Praying Grounds: African American Faith Communities—A Documentary and Oral History, The Spiritual Gifts Workshop Choir, and Traditions and Beliefs, a quarterly newsletter.

Subscriptions │ Two-year subscriptions are available for $30, and individual issues are available for $20. We will publish our charter issue in November of 2009. Make checks and money orders payable to Cleveland State University, and include RASHAD on the memo line.

Submissions │ We will announce the annual theme for upcoming issues by February 15th of each year. Submit manuscripts by November 15th via email to African.Diaspora@csuohio.edu. Double-spaced manuscripts, no more than 30 pages in length (including endnotes), should be prepared using A Manual for Writers of Research Papers, Theses, and Dissertations, 7th Edition (University of Chicago Press, 2007). Manuscripts submitted for publication will be peer-reviewed. Books for review and other correspondence should be addressed to:

Cleveland State University
RASHAD, Editorial and Subscription Office
c/o The Department of History
2121 Euclid Avenue, RT1915
Cleveland, Ohio 44115
Phone: (216) 523-7182 │ Fax: (216) 687-5592
Email: r.williams@csuohio.edu

Highlights from the November 2009 Charter Issue

The Matrix of African American Sacred Music in the 21st Century
Dr. Cheryl A. Kirk-Duggan

Lyceum Guild: A Ministry on a Mission
Dr. E. Paulette Isaac-Savage

Sufism in Senegal
Dr. Mamadou Seck

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The New Spiritual Gifts Workshop Choir

Ruth E. Appling  Mary Avery  Beverly Brown  Rian Brown
Carlisa Burge  Leonard Gregory Burks  Zephrine B. Burks  Tracy Patrice Carr
Adria Jean Edwards  Geraldine Hardin-Washington  Felicia Harris  Shirley Herndon
Andrae Hunter  Drene Ivy  Brenda E. Johnson  Ann Leftridge

Not pictured: Bianca Campbell and Laurian Barden
The New Spiritual Gifts Workshop Choir

Zachary Marbury
Lana J. Miller
Latitia “Tish” Rice
Michelle Robinson

Chayce Shanklin
Carmella Simpson
Aretha Tucker
Deon Thomas

April Turner
Willie Tracey
Doris Walker
Audrey Wiggins

Irma Williams
Lisa Williams
Nathaniel Williams
Regennia Williams

Not pictured: James May
Meet the Composers

Beverly Brown

Leonard Burks

Drene Ivy

Brenda Johnson

Nathaniel Williams
To My Siblings
in the
Williams Family
Singers
Kim, Lisa, Irma, Lana, & Nathaniel

Thank you for a lifetime of beautiful music making!

~Regennia

God bless the New Spiritual Gifts
and Dr. Regennia Williams for her dedication to the preservation of Gospel Music.

Beverly J. Brown
Music Educator, Performer, Songwriter

RMW Business Enterprises
Research, Management, Writing
(216) 244-6630
regennian@aol.com
20019 Mountville Drive
Maple Heights, Ohio 44137

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