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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE- NOVEMBER 2009/ OAKLAND/ SAN FRANCISCO

IN THE NAME OF LOVE THE 8TH ANNUAL MUSICAL TRIBUTE HONORING DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.

**Sun. January 17, 2010 - 7:00 pm
Oakland Scottish Rite Center**

EMCEE: BRIAN COPELAND- "NOT A GENUINE BLACK MAN"

featuring:

LEDISI

JOHN SANTOS SEXTET

OAKLAND INTERFAITH GOSPEL CHOIR- Terrance Kelly, Director

OAKLAND CHILDREN'S COMMUNITY CHOIR- Melanie DeMore, Director

w/ KHALIL SHAHEED'S OAKTOWN JAZZ WORKSHOPS

Rhythmic Concepts presents ***IN THE NAME OF LOVE***, The 8th Annual Musical Tribute Honoring Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. at The Oakland Scottish Rite Center – 1547 Lakeside Dr. on **Sunday, Jan. 17 at 7:00 pm**. Presented each January, this cultural, civic and soulful celebration is Oakland's **only non-denominational musical tribute to Dr. King** - one of the greatest humanitarians of our time. With **Ledisi**, one of the most talented rising vocal stars of today, returning to her hometown of Oakland to

commemorate Dr. King, along with an amazing array of talent, this year's event promises to be a profound celebration of civil rights and an amazing evening of music.

This year's line-up includes Verve recording artist and two time Grammy nominee, **Ledisi**, joined by four-time Grammy-nominated percussionist John Santos and the **John Santos Sextet**; the powerful 60-voice **Oakland Interfaith Gospel Choir**; and the **Oakland Children's Community Choir** under the musical direction of Melanie DeMore, with over 200 children from our Oakland public elementary schools, backed up by the **Oaktown Jazz Workshops**. Author, comedian, and radio talk show host **Brian Copeland**, "Not a Genuine Black Man" will be our illustrious emcee for the evening. Archival footage of Dr. King's moving oratories will be interspersed throughout the evening, and the presentation of the **5th Oakland Citizen Humanitarian Award** will be given to an outstanding individual working to make a difference. All these elements help to make this one of Oakland's most significant events of the year.

Tickets: General Admission- \$12, children under 12- FREE

*Lowered ticket price thanks to the generosity of **Target**.*

Tickets available at <http://www.mlktribute.com> and by phone:

800-838-3006

Tickets sold at the door on day of show (based on availability).

Tickets also available at the following Bookstores:

in Oakland - Pendragon, Laurel, Marcus, Walden Pond;

In Berkeley - Reid's Records, and Pegasus.

For additional information call **510-287- 8880** or visit

<http://www.mlktribute.com>

To arrange an interview with any of the performers,

please call **STACEY HOFFMAN - 510-684-3612**

Presented by Rhythmic Concepts, Inc. RCI is an Oakland-based non-profit organization. **"In the Name of Love"** has been made possible through the generosity of **Target Corporation**; City of Oakland, Cultural Funding Program; William and Flora Hewlett Foundation; Clorox Foundation; R.O.O.F Foundation; See's Candies; Bay Area News Group East Bay; Oakland Tribune; KBLX; and Solstice Press.

RCI, a non-profit Oakland based organization created in 1984, is dedicated to the appreciation and preservation of the jazz legacy through immersion programs that foster artistic development and creative empowerment. Through education and performance opportunities, RCI offers lasting membership in a living jazz community that bridges the gap between amateur and professional artists of all ages, economic levels and cultural backgrounds. RCI created Jazz Camp West in 1984, the Oakland Interfaith Gospel Choir in 1986, Jazz Camp Weekend and the Oakland Jazz Choir in 1992, "In the Name Of Love" in 2002, the Oakland Children's Community Choir in 2005; and its newest program Jam Camp West, a hip music camp for youth ages 10-15, in 2008.

2009 Featured Performers

Brian Copeland, Emcee

If you were to look up the definition of the word versatility in a dictionary of performers, chances are you'd find the name BRIAN COPELAND. The multitalented comedian, writer, television host, talk radio host and commentator has basked in the glow of both public and critical acclaim for nearly a decade.

Copeland's incisive, cutting edge standup comedy material and his unique ability to hilariously cut to the heart of some of our most serious social and political problems has earned him spots as the opening act for such diverse artists as Ray Charles, Natalie Cole, Dionne Warwick, Donna Summer, Peabo Bryson, Al Jarreau, Ringo Starr, Manhattan Transfer, James Brown, Rick Springfield, Lionel Richie, George Benson, Etta James, Smokey Robinson, The Temptations and the Queen of Soul, Aretha Franklin. In addition to performing in clubs and concert halls across America, he has appeared at such venues as Caesar's Palace in Las Vegas, Taj Mahal and Trump Palace in Atlantic City and Constitution Hall in Washington DC.

<http://www.briancopeland.com>

Ledisi

Ledisi Anibade Young, one of the most outstanding singers of today, is a R&B singer-songwriter from New Orleans. She first began performing at age eight with the New Orleans Symphony Orchestra. She moved to Oakland, California, where she was nominated for a Shellie award in 1990 for her performance in a production of *The Wiz* and performed in an extended run with the San Francisco cabaret troupe, Beach Blanket Babylon. She studied opera and piano for five years at University of California Berkeley in their Young Musicians Program. In 1995, Ledisi formed the group known as Anibade. When trying to get the group signed to a major label, she had no luck, which resulted in

her and Sundra Manning starting LeSun Records. Along with her group Anibade, Ledisi released an album entitled *Take Time*. The album gained major airplay from local radio stations.

In 2000, Ledisi released her first album, entitled *Soulsinger: The Revival*. In 2002, Ledisi released her sophomore album, *Feeling Orange but Sometimes Blue*. The album won an award for "Outstanding Jazz Album" at the California Music Awards. In 2007, she received a Grammy nomination for Best New Artist, signed a major record deal with Verve Forecast and later released her third in August 2008, entitled *Lost & Found*, which has sold 216,894 copies. In September 2008, Ledisi released her Christmas album, *It's Christmas*, and in December Ledisi's T.V. special aired on Gospel Channel, entitled "Ledisi Christmas". Most recently Ledisi's fourth studio album *Turn Me Loose* was released in 2009. <http://www.ledisi.com/>

John Santos Sextet

Four-time Grammy-nominated percussionist and US Artists Fontanals Fellow, John Santos is a major exponent of Afro-Latin music through innovative use of traditional forms and instruments with contemporary music. He's been a prolific performer, composer, teacher, writer, radio programmer, and record/event producer for over 30 years, having worked with acknowledged masters such as Cachao, Dizzy Gillespie, Tito Puente, Bebo Valdés, Max Roach, Eddie Palmieri, Patato Valdés, Francisco Aguabella, Steve Turre, McCoy Tyner, Batacumbele, Omar Sosa, and Carlos Santana. John was a member of the Latin Jazz Advisory Committee of the Smithsonian Institution.

The John Santos Sextet will shed light on the historical and cultural significance of Latin Jazz, as well as its aesthetic characteristics pertaining to instrumentation, rhythm, interpretation and improvisation. Organized in 2003, their repertoire consists of original compositions and exciting original arrangements of classics from Cuba, Puerto Rico, and the US. Their first CD, *Papa Mambo*, was released on John's Machete Records label in the Summer of 2007. Their second CD, *Perspectiva Fragmentada*, released in October,

2008, also on the Machete Records label, was selected as one of the five top Latin Jazz CDs of 2008 by New York's *All About Jazz* magazine, and was a nominee for a *Cubadisco* award, equivalent to the Cuban Grammys. This evening, the Sextet features special guest vocalists, Kimiko Joy and Orlando Torriente. <http://www.johnsantos.com>

The Oakland Interfaith Gospel Choir, with its exquisite vocal harmonies and stirring gospel repertoire, is a multiracial interfaith group of 55 vocalists united in their love of gospel music with its message of hope, joy, unity and justice - under the direction of Terrance Kelly. Created in 1986 by Rhythmic Concepts, OIGC went on to form it's own independent corporation in 1991 and is an international touring and recording group. From 1999-2003, the OIGC earned the Gospel Academy Award for "Best Community Choir of the Year." Terrance Kelly received the 2003 Gospel Academy Award for Best Director. The choir's has preformed with recording stars Tramaine Hawkins, Take 6, Linda Ronstadt, Peter Gabriel and Jeffrey Osborne. <http://www.oigc.org>

The Oakland Children's Community Choir is a music education project provided completely free of charge by RCI to Oakland elementary schools with little or no access to the arts. Over 240 children from Glenview and Cleveland elementary schools participated this season in a four-month music education and performance project under the Musical Direction of Melanie DeMore and accompanist Ben Heveroh. These schools were selected because of the diversity of the population and the lack of funding for cultural programming. The MLK Tribute event will showcase the culmination of their work. OCCC provides a number of important services for underserved children: access to a high quality music fundamental program, exposure to the teachings of Dr. King, and an exciting opportunity to showcase their accomplishments by performing at a high profile public event alongside professional artists.

The Oaktown Jazz Workshops is a multifaceted presentation, and preservation organization dedicated to celebrating the artistic and cultural significance of America's Classical Music - Jazz. Under the musical direction of Khalil Shaheed, OJW was formed

in 1994 and celebrates jazz music as an American indigenous art form of profound artistic & cultural significance. The purpose of OJW is to promote, preserve, and present this music so that all youth, and especially African American youth, develop a sense of ownership and pride in jazz music as a uniquely American cultural tradition.

<http://www.oaktownjazz.org>

CALENDAR EDITORS PLEASE NOTE:

Rhythmic Concepts, Inc.-2501 Harrison St, Oakland, CA, 94612

Media Contact: Stacey Hoffman, 510-287-8880; stacey@jazzcampwest.com

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PHOTOS: <http://www.mlktribute.com/PressKit.htm>

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Oakland Scottish Rite Center is wheelchair accessible.

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