



Media Advisory

June 2, 2010

Essence of Joy Alumni Singers Performing at 2010 Arts Fest

Who: The Essence of Joy Alumni Singers (EOJAS) perform sacred and secular music from the African and African-American tradition. The choir, founded in 2005, is composed of alumni of the Essence of Joy Choir of The Pennsylvania State University. EOJAS has performed extensively in locations such as Pennsylvania, Maryland, Virginia, Florida, the U.S. Virgin Islands, Washington D.C., Belgium, Luxembourg, and France. EOJAS' purpose is to learn, present, and promote African and African-American sacred and secular music in an effort to entertain, inspire, affirm and unify the worldwide community.

What: Since its first performance at the Central Pennsylvania Festival of the Arts in 2006, the EOJAS appearance has come to be a highlight of Arts Fest. The choir will present a concert featuring traditional and contemporary Spirituals and Gospel, and other works by African-American composers.

EOJAS artistic director, Dr. Anthony Leach, is an associate professor of music and music education at The Pennsylvania State University and is Penn State's current Laureate. He is the director and founder of Essence of Joy and the director of the Penn State University Choir. Dr. Leach teaches undergraduate and graduate courses in choral music education. He holds a Ph.D. in music education and a M.M. in conducting from Penn State University, and a B.S. in Music Education from Lebanon Valley College, Annville, PA. Dr. Leach is a member of The American Guild of Organists, American Choral Directors Association, Music Educators National Conference, and The Gospel Music Workshop of America. His composition Walk Together Children is published by Earthsongs.

When: Friday, July 9, 2010, 7 p.m. EST. This event is open to the public. Arts Fest buttons are required for admission.

Where: The concert will be held at State College Presbyterian Church, 132 West Beaver Avenue, State College, PA 16801. For more information, please visit www.eojas.org

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The choir would be happy to accommodate any requests for interviews