



Media Advisory

November 30, 2009

Essence of Joy Alumni Singers Performing at State College's St. Paul's Methodist

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, 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: The 2009 Gift in Song concert is a benefit performance for Mogoshi Primary School. Seven members of the choir visited the school in 2008 and the choir has since adopted the school as a primary fundraising target. The choir will return to Mogoshi in 2011 to visit the school and present a concert. Photos of the 2008 visit are available upon request.

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: Sunday, December 13, 2009, 3 p.m. EST. This event is free and open to the public. Donations requested for Mogoshi Primary School in ga-Matlala, South Africa.

Where: The concert will be held at the St Paul's United Methodist Church, 109 Mcallister St, State College, PA 16801-4731. For more information, please visit www.eojas.org

Contact: Kristen Viglietta
(717) 546-4195
vpampr @ eojas.org

The choir would be happy to accommodate any requests for interviews