



Media Advisory

May 5, 2010

Essence of Joy Alumni Singers to Perform in Mechanicsburg May 21-22

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: EOJAS will present two concerts in the Mechanicsburg, PA, area. Friday, May 21st, the choir will present a joint concert with Cumberland Valley High School, Good Hope and Eagle View Middle Schools. EOJAS performs Saturday evening at Mechanicsburg Presbyterian Church.

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 May 21, and Saturday May 22, both at 7 p.m. EST. Tickets for the Friday concert are \$10 for adult (18 and over) and \$5 for students and youth and are available at the door or via reservations at <http://www.cvschools.org/webpages/cmckinney/forms.cfm>. Both concerts are open to the public. The Saturday evening concert is unticketed.

Where: The Friday concert will be held at Cumberland Valley High School and the Saturday concert will take place at Mechanicsburg Presbyterian Church. For additional information, please visit www.eojas.org.

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The choir would be happy to accommodate any requests for interviews