

# Cultural Pursuits

## THE SOUND OF THE NORTHWEST



Fall 2009

Greetings all you soulful music lovers,

As we approach the ripe old age of twenty-three years, we are humbled and emboldened by the love and support you have shown us over the years. Our 2008-09 season opened in spectacular fashion with a concert that proclaimed "God Is A Spirit!" The audience witnessed an amazing demonstration of this "Spirit" in the Negro Spiritual (solo vocals by Bridget Bazile and choral by *The Sound*); and in dance (tap) by the Northwest Tap Connection and more dance (interpretive) by Vania Bynum. However, we were just getting warmed up! Next, we heard organ selections by Tedde Gibson (pipe organ) and the Spirited-filled words of Dr. Mona Lake Jones. Finally, we went to the modern-day church! With the help of a number of our friends, we made the connection between the Spirituals of old and the good news (gospel)! In short, we brought tears to the eyes, a stomp to the feet, a clap to the hands, and joy to the heart!

All praise is due to God Almighty! The rest of the year stayed on that high. *The Sound* participated in several noteworthy events including a televised Inauguration Day Gala Concert at Town Hall and Gospelfest '09 co-sponsored by Seattle Pacific University, the Seattle Public Library, and McDonald's of Western Washington. The year ended with *The Sound's* participation in the 25th Naturalization Ceremony in which nearly five hundred persons became new U.S. citizens.

I am excited to see what the new season has in store. It will open with a Spiritual stimulus package entitled "Hold On! Keep Hope Alive." This program is designed to encourage and uplift in the midst of the enormous changes we are witnessing in our world today. Joining us again will be the incomparable Dr. Mona Lake Jones, King County's poet laureate. Also joining us will be Judahsong, one of the area's best-kept secrets. This ebullient group is a local ministry under the musical direction of

Seattle's own Cora L. Jackson, composer, arranger, clinician, choral director extraordinaire and member of *The Sound*. There's more but I won't give it all away here. Suffice it to say, you don't want to miss our opening concert on October 18, 2009. Later, we will ring in the Christmas season with "Good News: The Savior Is Born!" We want to thank the wonderful members of St. Clement's Episcopal Church for continuing to host us each year. This is an opportunity to enjoy and participate in the delight of the Christmas season with songs, old and new.

In 2010, there will be more great opportunities for your enjoyment. In particular, we will unite with Master Chorus Eastside to present joint concerts in Issaquah and Kirkland. Mark your calendars for June 26 or 27 to experience a unique celebration of Freedom and Independence.

*WE* continue because of your support and encouragement. Our gratitude knows no bounds. We look forward to seeing you, your friends, acquaintances, relatives and co-workers this season.

Peace,

*Juan Huey-Ray*

President and Founder, Cultural Pursuits  
Director, The Sound of the Northwest



# Hold On! Keep Hope Alive

*through*

*Spirituals, Gospel and Poetry*

*As performed by*

*The Sound of the Northwest*

*with Special Guests*

*Judahsong, Dr. Mona Lake Jones and others*

*Sunday, October 18, 2009 4:00PM*

*Seattle First Baptist Church*

*1111 Harvard Avenue @ Seneca*

*General Admission – Advance \$20 | Door \$25*

*Seniors & Students \$15*

*Purchase from a member, at our Web site (below) or at [www.brownpapertickets.com](http://www.brownpapertickets.com)*

*For information, please call (425) 687-3190 or visit*

*[www.culturalpursuits.org](http://www.culturalpursuits.org)*

*A 501(c)(3) organization*

## MISSION STATEMENT

**Cultural Pursuits** is a non-profit organization whose mission is to encourage love and peace among all people by awakening and activating the spiritual connection that resides within each of us. Conceived in 1977 and incorporated in 1999, the organization was afforded 501(c)(3) status by the IRS in 2001. The Sound of The Northwest, the vocal performing arm of Cultural Pursuits, is a regional and multi-ethnic chorus dedicated to the preservation and promotion of the Negro Spiritual as a means of uniting kindred spirits. According to the founder, Juan Huey-Ray, "The music of our African fore-parents is a proven catalyst for soothing the soul. The Negro Spiritual in particular demonstrates the indomitable nature of the spirit." It is our intent to increase the universal awareness and appreciation of the rich African American musical heritage through the performance of The Arts. It is our hope that, through the preservation of its rich history, the music of the Negro Spiritual will be continued, cherished, and performed by generations to come.

Other programs sponsored by Cultural Pursuits include:

- "Harriet's Return" chronicles the private and public life of famed Underground Railroad conductor, spiritual icon, and revolutionary Harriet Tubman, whose life spanned nine decades and still influences the consciousness of people around the world. This moving play takes audience members on a journey from Harriet's childhood to her final days. As she weaves her story, she recalls more than thirty colorful characters, taking all from contemporary America into the depths of her soul, the psyche of a nation, and a call to action. This marvelous depiction of an incredible life will be presented again in early 2010.
- "Cain't No One Know" is the first in a series of original educational entertainment events. Cultural Pursuits will call attention to issues that affect us all through Drama, Hip Hop, Rap, Poetry, and Music. "Cain't No One Know" focuses attention on HIV/Aids and its disproportionate effect on women of color. We believe it is imperative that a well-planned assault be continuously waged against the community's lack of knowledge on this ravaging illness.

**The Sound of the Northwest** was formed in 1987. Its original purpose was to offer musical inspiration for the opening of an international conference whose audience included First Lady Winnie Mandela of South Africa. Since its inception, The Sound has performed for thousands in venues across the Region, consistently providing audiences with awe-inspiring performances. Venues include Seattle's Benaroya Hall, Seattle Town Hall, and Piggott Hall at Seattle University; schools, hotel auditoriums, and churches throughout the Pacific Northwest. The Sound received a standing ovation for its performance during the Northwest African American Museum's Lifetime Achievement Award Ceremony and Musical Tribute to Quincy Jones at The Paramount Theater in 2008.

The Sound has shared the stage with the Vladimir Chamber Chorus of Russia, the Concord Choir of Portland, Oregon, the Everett Chorale, Rain Shadow of Port Townsend, The Seattle Peace Chorus the Seattle Repertory Jazz Orchestra, the Seattle Choral Company, the Seattle Opera, and numerous other vocal groups. This talented and multi-ethnic ensemble has been guided by the guest batons of Dr. Ysaye Barnwell (Sweet Honey in the Rock) and other nationally renowned conductor/composer/arrangers; Moses Hogan, Roland Carter, and Robert Morris. Beneficiaries of concerts and other activities of The Sound include a clinic in Shaw, Mississippi for Katrina survivors, the King County Emergency Feeding Program, the AARTH ministry which focuses on HIV/AIDS education and assistance, and the African American Academy where members of The Sound educated students on the pivotal role of the Negro Spiritual in African American history. (The Sound also purchased a karaoke machine for the school's music program).

## The Sound's Calendar (so far)

Sunday, October 18, 2009, 4:00

Seattle First Baptist Church, 1111 Harvard Avenue

Saturday, December 5, 2009, 4:00

St. Clement's Episcopal Church, 1501 - 32<sup>nd</sup> Ave. S  
Seattle

January and February 2010 - Dates To be  
determined

"Sing a Song of Freedom" Mini Concerts

Saturday, June 26, 2010, 3:00

All-American Independence Celebration  
with Master Chorus Eastside  
Kirkland Performance Center - 350 Kirkland Avenue  
Kirkland

Sunday, June 27, 2010, 3:00

All-American Independence Celebration  
with Master Chorus Eastside  
Pickering Barn - 1730 - 10<sup>th</sup> Avenue NW  
Issaquah

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 **THE SOUND**   
OF THE NORTHWEST  
PO Box 22088  
Seattle, WA 98122-0088