



Press Release
May 17, 2007

Ysaye M. Barnwell of *Sweet Honey In The Rock* to headline *The Sound of the Northwest's* 20th Anniversary concert at Benaroya Hall, June 23, 2007

The Sound of the Northwest presents "Back To The Future" a choral concert celebrating 20 years of spirituals, gospel and inspirational music. This 20th Anniversary concert, directed by Juan Huey-Ray, will be presented on Saturday, June 23, 2007 at 7 pm in the Illsley Ball Nordstrom Recital Hall at Benaroya Hall, 200 University Avenue in Seattle. Tickets are \$20.

Ysaye M. Barnwell, Ph.D. MSPH., a member of the internationally acclaimed African American female a cappella ensemble, *Sweet Honey In The Rock*, will be the featured guest artist for this event.

Dr. Barnwell is a native of New York, now residing in Washington, D.C. Her musical talents emerged quite early at the age of 2 _ as a violin prodigy. She has become well known for her three-octave vocal range as a performer with *Sweet Honey in the Rock* and can be heard on over twenty-five recordings. She is also an accomplished composer, arranger, actress and educator. Included on the program is the Pacific Northwest premier of "*Truth Pressed to the Earth Shall Rise;*" an original composition by Dr. Barnwell based on the writings and sayings of Dr Martin Luther King, Jr.

Singers are invited to experience an 8-hour workshop conducted by Dr. Barnwell entitled "The Power of Song." Workshop participants will also sing under her direction during the concert. This is a rare opportunity not to be missed and space is limited. Interested persons are encouraged to register early. Registration is \$35.

The Sound of the Northwest has been delighting and inspiring audiences from Bellingham to Portland since 1987. The chorus is an interracial, interdenominational group avidly dedicated to the performance and preservation of music from the African American heritage. *The Sound* is readying to embark upon producing their third CD, "The Gift: Love, Part 2." Their first two CD recordings ("Faith" and "The Gift: Love, Part 1") have received strong praise for unique and uplifting presentations of Negro spirituals.

The Sound is community-oriented and its performances have benefited numerous organizations and causes including the Emergency Feeding Program of Seattle and King County and a clinic supporting Katrina survivors in Shaw, Mississippi. A portion of the proceeds from this anniversary concert will be donated to New Horizons Ministries, a multi-cultural organization whose mission is to assist homeless and street-involved youth.

Concert general seating tickets may be purchased through Ticketmaster, the Benaroya Hall Box Office or members of *The Sound*.

For more information call (425) 687-3190 or e-mail to CulturalPursuits@comcast.net.