



Living Jazz • 2501 Harrison St., Oakland, CA, 94612 • 510-287-8880

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE- December 2011/ OAKLAND/ SAN FRANCISCO
CALENDAR EDITORS PLEASE NOTE:**

Living Jazz (formerly Rhythmic Concepts), Inc.- 2501 Harrison St, Oakland, CA, 94612
Media Contact: **Diane Dragone, Silver Star Productions, 415-517-7307**

**WHAT: *In The Name of Love, the 10th Annual Musical Tribute
Honoring Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.***

Featuring:

Mavis Staples, Legendary Gospel Grammy Award Winner
PopLyfe, Oakland teen sensation and America's Got Talent finalist
Oakland Interfaith Gospel Choir, Terrance Kelly, Director
Youth Speaks
Oakland Children's Community Choir, Melanie DeMore, Director

Presentation of the 7th Oakland Citizen Humanitarian Award

WHEN: Sunday, January 15, 2012

6 pm Pre-Concert Event- Oakland Community Exhibition
featuring non-profits and businesses working to make a difference!

7 pm- Concert

WHERE: Paramount Theatre, 2025 Broadway, Oakland, CA, 94612

TICKETS: Reserved Seating: Adults- \$18; Children 12 and under- \$8

www.ticketmaster.com 1-800-745-3000

or the Paramount Theatre Box Office

Lowered Ticket price thanks to the generosity of Target.

FOR MORE INFO: 510-287-8880 or visit **www.mlktribute.com**

PHOTOS: <http://www.mlktribute.com/PressKit.htm>

Paramount Theatre is wheelchair accessible.

In the Name of Love is a stunning tribute to one of the greatest humanitarians of our time. With the legendary, Grammy Award winner **MAVIS STAPLES**; the Oakland teen sensation **PopLyfe**, 4th runner up on America's Got Talent; the powerful 65-voice **Oakland Interfaith Gospel Choir**; the renowned **Youth Speaks**; and the 275-voice **Oakland Children's Community Choir**; our 10th anniversary celebration promises to be a profound celebration of civil rights and an amazing evening of music.

Press Release

IN THE NAME OF LOVE

The 10th Annual Musical Tribute Honoring Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

Sunday, January 15, 2012

Paramount Theatre, 2025 Broadway, Oakland, CA, 94612

6:00 pm Pre-Concert Event – The Oakland Community Exhibition

featuring non-profits and businesses working to make a difference!

7:00 pm - Concert

featuring

The Legendary Mavis Staples

Oakland Teen Sensation PopLyfe

Oakland Interfaith Gospel Choir, Terrance Kelly, Director

Youth Speaks

Oakland Children's Community Choir- Melanie Demore, Director

w/ Khalil Shaheed's Oaktown Jazz Workshops

Presentation of the 7th Oakland Citizen Humanitarian Award

Living Jazz (formerly Rhythmic Concepts), with the generous support of Target, will present the 10th Anniversary Celebration of **In the Name of Love, The Annual Musical Tribute honoring Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.**

In honor of our 10th Anniversary, **In the Name of Love** will be moved to the historic **Paramount Theatre** and will feature the legendary Grammy Award Winner **Mavis Staples**, along with the 4th runner-up on America's Got Talent, Oakland's teen sensation **PopLyfe**; the 65-voice **Oakland Interfaith Gospel Choir**; the renowned **Youth Speaks**; and the 275- voice **Oakland Children's Community Choir** under the musical direction of Melanie DeMore. Archival footage of Dr. King's moving oratories will be interspersed throughout the evening, and the 7th Annual **City of Oakland Citizen Humanitarian Award** will be presented to an outstanding individual.

All these elements help to make this one of Oakland's most significant events of the year.

In the Name of Love remains Oakland's **only annual non-denominational musical tribute to Dr. King**. It is an extremely significant civic and cultural event, bringing our diverse community together to pay tribute to Dr. King's message of community, equality and inclusion.

"In the Name of Love" features both international and local talent; children from Oakland public schools; archival footage of Dr. King; the presentation of the "**City of Oakland Citizen Humanitarian Award**"; and the **Oakland Community Exhibition**, a pre-concert event held in the Paramount's lobby, providing exposure to over **30 Oakland non-profits and businesses working to make a difference**. Adults, elders, children and families, from extremely diverse backgrounds, come together to share in the inspiration of Dr. King's teachings and leave feeling unified, inspired, and positive about our collective and personal potential.

Tickets: Reserved Seating- \$18, children 12 and under- \$8
*Lowered ticket price thanks to the generosity of **Target**.*

For tix: www.ticketmaster.com 1-800-745-3000

Or the Paramount Theatre Box Office

For additional information call **510-287- 8880** or visit

<http://www.mlktribute.com>

**To arrange an interview with any of the performers,
please call Diane Dragone, Silver Star Productions, 415-517-7307
diane.dragone@gmail.com**

"In the Name of Love" has been made possible through the generosity of

Target Corporation; William and Flora Hewlett Foundation; City of Oakland Cultural Funding Program; National Endowment for the Arts; California Arts Council; Clorox Foundation; Thomas J. Long Foundation; Zellerbach Family Foundation; R.O.O.F Foundation; See's Candies; Marriot Hotel; BART; Comcast; Oakland Tribune; KRON 4; KDYA; KBLX; and Solstice Press.

Living Jazz, an Oakland based non-profit created in 1984, is dedicated to building community, cultivating creativity and enriching lives through the love of jazz. Living Jazz created Jazz Camp West in 1984; the Oakland Interfaith Gospel Choir in 1986; Jazz Camp Weekend and the Oakland Jazz Choir in 1992; "In the Name of Love" in 2002; the Oakland Children's Community Choir in 2005; Jam Camp West, a music camp for youth ages 10-15 in 2008; and Jazz Search West; the Bay Area's Annual Jazz Talent Search in 2010.

2012 Featured Performers

Mavis Staples

Born in Chicago in 1939, Mavis Staples began her career with her family group, the Staple Singers, in 1950. Initially singing locally at churches and appearing on a weekly radio show, the Staples scored a gigantic hit in 1956 with "Uncloudy Day" for the Vee-Jay label. Upon her high school graduation in 1957, the Staple Singers took their music on the road. Led by family patriarch Roebuck "Pops" Staples and including Mavis and siblings Cleo, Yvonne and Pervis, the Staples were often referred to as "God's Greatest Hitmakers."

By the mid-1960s, the Staple Singers, inspired by their close friendship with Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., became the spiritual and musical voices of the civil rights movement. According to Pops, "If Dr. King could preach it, we can sing it." They covered contemporary pop hits with positive messages, including many Bob Dylan songs and a version of Stephen Stills' "For What It's Worth." The Staples sang "message" songs like "Long Walk to D.C." and "When Will We Be Paid?," bringing their moving and articulate music to an enormous number of young people.

The group signed to Stax Records in 1968, joining together their gospel harmonies and deep faith with members of the Muscle Shoals Rhythm Section. They hit the Top 40 eight times between 1971 and 1975, including two No. 1 singles: "I'll Take You There" and "Let's Do It Again." Moving away from their early roots as a pure gospel group, the Staple Singers were bona fide pop stars.

Mavis Staples recorded her first solo album, which was self-titled, for Stax in 1969. After another Stax release in 1970, she released a soundtrack album, *A Piece of the Action* on Curtis Mayfield's Curtom label in 1977. A 1984 album (also self-titled) preceded two albums under the direction of Prince: 1989's *Time Waits for No One* and 1993's *The Voice*.

Marty Stuart invited them to sing with him on the 1994 all-star album *Rhythm Country & Blues*. Staples' own *Spirituals & Gospel: A Tribute to Mahalia Jackson*, from 1996, is a moving song cycle honoring Jackson, a very close family friend.

Pops Staples died in December 2000, and Mavis and her siblings temporarily stepped out of the spotlight. However, she scored a 2003 Grammy nomination for her duet with Dylan, "Gotta Change My Way of Thinking." She returned with the upbeat solo album *Have a Little Faith* on Alligator Records in 2004. That same year, she joined Los Lobos on their album *The Ride* and appeared on tribute albums to Stephen

Foster (singing "Hard Times Come Again No More") and Johnny Paycheck (on the title track, "Touch My Heart").

www.mavisstaples.com/

PopLyfe

POPLYFE is leading the next generation of gifted musicians and artists emerging from the San Francisco Bay Area. They are ready to carry on the Bay Area's history of delivering new styles of music and artistry to the entertainment industry.

They are learning the business of music from a host of mentors including producer D'Wayne Wiggins of Tony Toni Tone following in the footsteps of Destiny's Child and Keyshia Cole. Already being recognized as the "Lil Tony's", ...PopLyfe's style ranges from Classical and Jazz to R&B and Hip Hop.

PopLyfe has played live throughout the Bay Area and beyond with performances at the Universal Gibson Ampitheatre with Bobby Brown, Paramount Theatre with Guy and Tony Toni Tone and as the opening act for artist Trey Songz at the SF Mezzanine.

<http://www.poplyfe.com>

The Oakland Interfaith Gospel Choir consists of 55 singers and 4 musicians, who represent a multi-racial, multi-cultural, interfaith community of diversity. For the past 24 years, the award-winning Choir's exquisite vocal harmonies and stirring Gospel repertoire have led to performances with a wide variety of groups, from The Five Blind Boys of Alabama to the Duke Ellington Orchestra. The Choir appears on Grammy-winning albums by Linda Rondstadt, MC Hammer, and Tramaine Hawkins. Last spring, OIGC was picked to perform at the First Annual International Choral Festival in Charleston, SC. OIGC has toured Canada, Australia and Israel, and has been featured at the New Orleans, Monterey, Russian River, North Beach, San Jose, Healdsburg and San Francisco Jazz Festivals. The Choir is a frequent guest throughout Northern California and is a popular headliner at events benefiting community organizations and their clients. In addition to live performances and recordings, the award-winning Oakland Interfaith Gospel Choir has been featured in numerous television appearances, including a documentary film of the group entitled *This is Our Story, This is Our Song*. A current public performance calendar can be found at <http://www.oigc.org>

Youth Speaks

Founded in 1996 in San Francisco, Youth Speaks is the leading nonprofit presenter of Spoken Word performance, education, and youth development programs in the country. Presenters of local and national youth poetry slams, festivals, reading series, and more, Youth Speaks also offers a comprehensive slate of literary arts education programs during the school day, in the after-school hours, on weekends and evenings, while providing numerous opportunities for youth to be published and heard. All told, Youth Speaks works with 45,000 teens per year in the Bay Area alone, and has helped create partner programs in 47 cities across the United States.

Youth Speaks creates safe spaces to empower the next generation of leaders, self-defined artists, and visionary activists through written and oral literacies. We challenge youth to find, develop, publicly present, and apply their voices as creators of social change.

Ultimately, Youth Speaks hopes to shift the perceptions of youth by combating illiteracy, alienation, and silence, creating a global movement of brave new voices bringing the noise from the margins to the core.

<http://youthspeaks.org/voice/>

The Oakland Children's Community Choir is a music education project provided completely free of charge by Living Jazz to Oakland elementary schools with little or no access to the arts. Over 275 children from Glenview and Cleveland elementary schools participated this season in a four-month music education and performance project under the Musical Direction of Melanie DeMore and accompanist Ben Heveroh. These schools were selected because of the diversity of the population and the lack of funding for cultural programming. The MLK Tribute event will showcase the culmination of their work. OCCC provides a number of important services for underserved children: access to a high quality music fundamental program, exposure to the teachings of Dr. King, and an exciting opportunity to showcase their accomplishments by performing at a high profile public event alongside professional artists.

The Oaktown Jazz Workshops is a multifaceted presentation, and preservation organization dedicated to celebrating the artistic and cultural significance of America's Classical Music - Jazz. Under the musical direction of Khalil Shaheed, OJW was formed in 1994 and celebrates jazz music as an American indigenous art form of profound artistic & cultural significance. The purpose of OJW is to promote, preserve, and present this music so that all youth, and especially African American youth, develop a sense of ownership and pride in jazz music as a uniquely American cultural tradition.

<http://www.oaktownjazz.org>