

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

*CONTACT:
GLORIA HOCKING
PEACE ENTERTAINMENT COORDINATOR
(214) 368-1051
HELEN KITTI SMITH
(214) 368-1553*

**INTERNATIONAL AND LOCAL TALENT WILL INAUGURATE AND CLOSE
3RD INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S PEACE CONFERENCE IN JULY**

DALLAS, TEXAS(June 9, 2007) – Invocations for world peace from international and local talent will inaugurate and close the forthcoming 3RD *INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S PEACE CONFERENCE* in Dallas, Texas. The Inaugural Ceremony will be held on Tuesday, July 10, 7:30 p.m., and the Closing Ceremony will be held on Saturday, July 14, 7:30 p.m, at the Adam's Mark Hotel and Convention Center.

The performances will reflect a variety of music, dance, song, sacred traditions and prayer that address the compelling desire for world peace. They will also frame the essence of the conference itself – to discuss peace issues with Three Nobel Peace Prize Laureates in attendance, and to teach communication, mediation, and negotiation – all necessary skills for peace – that will empower peacemakers with renewal as they continue in their efforts around the world.

The Inaugural Line-up will include the WOMEN'S CHORUS OF DALLAS, the THIRTEEN INDIGENOUS GRANDMOTHERS, the OLLIN XOCHIPILLI AZTEC DANCERS, the WISE FOOL PERFORMERS, and the MCCOY ORFF ENSEMBLE.

The Closing Line-up will include the Inaugural performers, in addition to the talents of the AFRICAN DANCE ENSEMBLE from Booker T. Washington High School for the Performing and Visual Arts, DJEMBABES WOMEN DRUMMERS, and the CONFERENCE CHOIR, a choir comprised of the international conference attendees who are also singers.

.../...

INTERNATIONAL TALENT WILL INAUGURATE AND CLOSE
3RD WOMEN'S PEACE CONFERENCE – 2

THE TALENT LINE-UP:

THE WOMEN'S CHORUS OF DALLAS

THE WOMEN'S CHORUS OF DALLAS is recognized for its musical excellence and support of women's causes. Founded in 1989 and dedicated to embrace diversity and to empower women, this highly-acclaimed group inspires its audience through the strength of its choral voice and the extensive range of its repertoire.

More than 300 women singers have produced nine recordings during its 18-year history. THE WOMEN'S CHORUS OF DALLAS has been featured twice at New York's Carnegie Hall (with the most recent venue in February 2006), and has been invited to participate in international choral festivals in San Jose, Denver, Tampa, and Montreal.

THE THIRTEEN INDIGENOUS GRANDMOTHERS

It was in October 2004, when thirteen grandmothers met at Tibet House's Menla Mountain Retreat in upstate New York. They came from the Arctic Circle, North America, Central America, and South America, and from Africa and Asia. All the grandmothers are 'keepers' of their indigenous traditions, foremost of which is their respect and honor of Mother Earth. They refer to themselves as the INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL OF THIRTEEN INDIGENOUS GRANDMOTHERS.

Moved by their shared environment and family concerns, the grandmothers formed an alliance toward world peace: they are dedicated to praying for peace for the next seven generations. They will pray to invoke healing on Earth, and will pray for all

.../...

INTERNATIONAL TALENT WILL INAUGURATE AND CLOSE
3RD WOMEN'S PEACE CONFERENCE - 3

her children and all other inhabitants. Their commitment to peace incorporates their traditions as women of prayer, and certainly, as women of action. Forming this alliance not only unifies their common vision, but it also bonds their efforts to attain global peace.

The INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL OF THIRTEEN INDIGENOUS GRANDMOTHERS is deeply concerned with the unprecedented destruction of Mother Earth, contamination of air, waters and soil, atrocities of war, global scourge of poverty, threat of nuclear weapons and waste, prevailing culture of materialism, epidemics which threaten the health of the Earth's peoples, exploitation of indigenous medicines, and destruction of indigenous ways of life. They are committed to their belief that their ancestral ways of prayer, peacemaking and healing are vitally needed today.

At their own cost, the grandmothers have since met in Pojoaque, New Mexico, USA; Oaxaca, Mexico; Dharamasala, India; and in June 2006, in the Black Hills of South Dakota. Grandmother Tserling (Tibet), Grandmother Aama Bombo (Nepal), Grandmother Flordemayo (New Mexico), Grandmother Agnes (Oregon), and Grandmother Mona (Arizona) will be in attendance at the conference.

THE OLLIN XOCHIPILLI AZTEC DANCERS

The OLLIN XOCHIPILLI AZTEC DANCERS will greet the four cardinal directions - North, South, East and West - to ask ancestral permission to perform their sacred dances. This Dallas-based group is comprised of some 40 mostly-native born Mexican nationals, half of whom are its dancers, who honor their Pre-Columbian culture through preserving

.../...

INTERNATIONAL TALENT WILL INAUGURATE AND CLOSE
3RD WOMEN'S PEACE CONFERENCE - 4

their native dances. The group teaches its indigenous community the science, philosophy, medicine and art of its Aztec lineage. Michael Gutierrez will lead The OLLIN XOCHIPILLI AZTEC DANCERS.

The dancers' special connection with Mother Earth and her elements inform and vitalize their art: they dance to give thanks for abundance. In the ancient Nahuatl Aztec language, "*Ollin Xochipilli*" means "Mother Nature in Movement."

WISE FOOL

An international group of five women (from Brazil, Canada and the USA) are dedicated to art as a means of changing the world. With the belief that laughter heals, celebrations strengthen community, and art builds bridges, they created WISE FOOL NEW MEXICO a troupe that performs the folk traditions of circus arts, storytelling, puppetry, and public spectacle. Their work is highly visual and very physical, perhaps reminiscent of the *Cirque du Soleil* genre, though WISE FOOL NEW MEXICO is only one of two groups in the US that performs acrobatic walking on stilts.

For the conference opening, three stilt-walkers and two aerial fabric artists will perform on stilts. The five artists will close the conference along with those conference attendees who will have attended the "Acrobatic-Partnering Workshop" to be held during the conference week.

WISE FOOL NEW MEXICO won the Santa Fe "Mayor's Award for Excellence in

.../...

INTERNATIONAL TALENT WILL INAUGURATE AND CLOSE
3RD WOMEN'S PEACE CONFERENCE - 5

the Arts”, the “Best Theatre Company” from *Crosswinds Weekly*, and it was featured on the cover of the *Santa Fe Reporter's 30 years of Santa Fe*. The troupe has also won the “Best Puppeteers” from San Francisco’s *Bay Guardian*, and visual arts awards from SF Carnival and Cherokee National Holidays.

MCCOY ORFF ENSEMBLE

Fifth grade students from McCoy Elementary School in Carrollton, Texas, will perform Composer Natalie Sleeth’s classic song, “*Go Now in Peace.*” Some 25 students, aged 9 - 11, will perform their own arrangement using recorders and xylophones, and will accompany their music with original choreography.

McCoy Elementary music students are taught in the Orff-Approach to musical education, founded by Carl Orff, the Austrian composer of *Carmina Burana* fame. His innovative system affirms both children’s creativity and their innate ability to learn and perform music as an extension of their own improvisations. Kathy Draves, Music Director at McCoy Elementary, coordinates this ethnically diverse student group.

CONFERENCE CHOIR

Peace conference attendees who are also singers and who will have participated in a conference “Choir Workshop” will have their efforts culminate on stage. They will perform at the Closing Ceremonies as the CONFERENCE CHOIR. Under the capable direction of Judith Ritchie, a Dallas-based singer, musician and minister, and Director of

.../...

INTERNATIONAL TALENT WILL INAUGURATE AND CLOSE
3RD WOMEN'S PEACE CONFERENCE - 6

Music Ministries at Midway Hills Christian Church, the participants will practice at noon daily during the conference. Marie Garry, part of the Colorado-based singing duo *Aurora*, assisted Ms. Ritchie with music coordination for the Closing Ceremonies.

The following songs are scheduled for the performance that includes an international array of titles. They are “*Mano Efe Dusime*”- a Ghanaian (Africa) chant, “*Amigos*”- a Latin-American song, “*Sail Away*”- a European favorite arranged by American composer Elizabeth Gilpatrick, and “*Voices*”- an American song in the folk genre with words and music by Holly Near, taken from her *Fire in the Rain* album. Of the eight chosen songs, three or four will be sung in languages other than English.

DJEMBABES

When eleven Austin, Texas, female drummers took West Africa’s most common drum - the djembe – and interpreted its magical rhythms, they also took linguistic liberties and named themselves THE DJEMBABES.

“Ours is “West-African Music, Austin-style,” states hand-drummer Sherry Gingras. “When drums touch the soul, their beat goes to the heart. The result is that no one can resist these rhythms and energy. A healing vibration is fueled and alive, humans become human together, women are empowered, and peace can be made through the one-ness of humanity.” says Gingras. Peace Conference Cultural Liaison and Planner Suzanna Brown, also a hand- drummer, reaffirms that drumming is healing. “Drumming moves the heart and creates healing in all who hear its universal sound.”

.../...

INTERNATIONAL TALENT WILL INAUGURATE AND CLOSE
3RD WOMEN'S PEACE CONFERENCE - 7

Eight of the eleven drummers will attend the conference and transmit the spirit and joy of their drumming. They are as delighted to observe the transformations their music elicits in their audience, as are the participants who are liberated by the healing rhythms they receive from the DJEMBABES. A “Drumming Workshop” will be open to participants during the Conference.

AFRICAN DANCE ENSEMBLE

The decade-old AFRICAN DANCE ENSEMBLE is one of four ensembles in the Dance Department of Booker T. Washington High School for the Performing and Visual Arts (HSPVA), part of the Dallas Independent School District.

All the ensemble's dances are West African, and they will perform one for the Closing Ceremonies. Student performers attend Booker T. Washington HSPVA where the Dance Department has achieved national-renown for its curriculum. The AFRICAN DANCE ENSEMBLE is part of the touring roster for Big Thought/Young Audiences, and has toured throughout the U.S. Its resident choreographer is Moussa Diabate, its director is Carla Wattley.

The *3RD INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S PEACE CONFERENCE* will be held from Tuesday, July 10, through Saturday, July 14, 2007, at the Adams Mark Hotel and Convention Center, 400 North Olive Street, Dallas, Texas 75201. A comprehensive listing of the conference can be found at <http://www.womenspeaceconference.org/>.

For more information on each of the entertainers, please see: www.twcd.org; www.grandmotherscouncil.com; www.wisefoolnm.org; www.djembabes.com;

.../...

INTERNATIONAL TALENT WILL INAUGURATE AND CLOSE
3RD WOMEN'S PEACE CONFERENCE - 8

and e-mail tlalhuikatzin@yahoo.com (for the *Ollin Xochipilli Aztec Dancers*).

Gloria Hocking, Peace Entertainment Coordinator for the Inaugural and Closing Ceremonies may be reached at (214) 368-1051. Martha Tiller, Conference Publicity Consultant, may be reached at (214) 521-6677, and Helen Kitty Smith, public relations, may be contacted at (214) 368-1553.
