



Media Release Public Relations

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CAGE, WISE HEADLINE JSU'S CHURCH MUSIC WORKSHOP

(JACKSON, Miss.) – The Annual Church Music Workshop of America is celebrating its 31st year with nationally acclaimed musical artists and consultants Byron Cage and the Rev. Dr. Raymond Wise. The workshop will be June 11-14 at Jackson State University's F.D. Hall Music Center on the main campus. Focusing on the theme, ***Come On, Let's Worship: The Ministry of Music***, the workshop features a variety of seminars relating to various aspects of worship service music.

The adult workshop concert featuring Cage will start at 7 p.m. Wednesday, June 13 in the Rose Embly McCoy Auditorium. The 100-voice workshop children's choir concert will begin at 6 p.m. Thursday, June 14 in the F.D. Hall Music Center Recital Hall.

Five-time Stellar Award-winner Cage has integrated the praise and worship element into gospel music. As minister of music at two prominent black mega-churches over the last 15 years (Atlanta's New Birth Cathedral, then Ebenezer A.M.E. in Fort Washington, Md.), he's among those introducing this newest wave and broadening its appeal within the family of faith. Popular songs include "The Presence of the Lord is Here," "I Will Bless the Lord" and "There Is a Name."

Wise is making his second appearance as a workshop consultant. The renowned composer-arranger has directed more than 30 choirs and penned more than 500 compositions that have been performed and recorded by local, national and international recording artists. Wise also is founder and president of Raise Productions, a gospel music production company in Columbus, Ohio.

Well-known for its unique instructional methods, the workshop draws church musicians from across the nation. "This workshop seeks to improve church music locally, nationally and internationally," says Dr. Jimmie James Jr., workshop director and chairman of JSU's Department of Music.

Seminars include Church Choir Decorum, Evangelism in Gospel Music, A Well-Balanced Musical Diet, The Role of the Minister of Music vs. A Choir Director: Is There a Difference?, Hymns of the African-American Church, and Speaking to God's People Through Song: A Discussion on Styles and Balance in the Church Music Ministry.

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Additional presenters during the four-day workshop include **Loretta Galbreath**, JSU assistant director of choral activities; **Phyllis Lewis-Hale**, JSU opera workshop director; **Florine Herron**, director of music for the Eighth Episcopal District of the A.M.E. church; **Ronald Stevens**, director of music, Decatur A.M.E. Zion Church; **W. Cortez Castilla**, JSU director of choral activities; **Lannie Spann McBride**, elementary music specialist; **James M. Hawkins**, Jim Hill High School choir director; **Cynthia Palmer**, gospel artist; **Fennoyee Thomas**, associate dean, College of Liberal Arts and Behavioral Sciences, Texas Southern University; and **Harlan Zackery**, JSU instructor of piano.

“Recent workshops have included the latest technology and have given guidance to the technological applications that prepare participants for the new century,” explains James, who serves as connectional director of music emeritus for the A.M.E. church and minister of music at Pearl Street A.M.E. Church in Jackson. Chairman of Region 8 of the National Association of Schools of Music since 2004, James represents Mississippi, Alabama, Kentucky and Tennessee on the NASM Board of Directors.

Through June 1, registration for the adult workshop is \$100. This fee includes all music and materials. After June 1, the fee will increase to \$125. Concert tickets in advance will be \$15 and \$20 the day of the concert. The \$25 children’s registration fee includes a workshop T-shirt. The children’s concert is free and open to the public. Final registration will begin at 8 a.m. Monday, June 11 in the F.D. Hall Music Center.

Academic and CEU credits are available for graduate and undergraduate students.

The Regency Hotel and Conference Center, located at 400 Greymont Ave., is the official hotel for the workshop. Contact hotel staff at (601) 969-2141 or via e-mail at rubye@regencyjackson.com. The rate is \$79 plus tax. Reservations should be made before June 1. The rate for dormitory housing is \$15. For more information, contact Dr. Jimmie James Jr. at (601) 979-2141 or via e-mail at jimmie.james@jsums.edu.

Additional information is available at www.jsums.edu/cmw.

Also, visit the new www.sonicboomofthesouth.com for information concerning JSU’s world-famous marching band and other historical aspects of the Department of Music at Jackson State University.

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Photos:

Byron Cage: <http://www.jsums.edu/~announcements/ByronCage.jpg>
 Raymond Wise: <http://www.jsums.edu/~announcements/Raymond.jpg>
 Jimmie James: <http://www.jsums.edu/~announcements/jjames2.jpg>