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Circuit Productions, Inc. presents Fall Programs Featuring Three Composers and Their Music Commissions with a Grant from the New York State Music Fund

- Three composers present their music during Fall performances of *Rhythm Journeys: Masters of Jazz and World music*
- Concerts continue to take place in NYC and NYS beginning November 2007.

Brooklyn, New York, October 2007 – Circuit Productions, Inc., the recipient of NYS Music Fund grant (“Music Fund”), announced today that Fall programs will feature the work of three commissioned composers for ***RHYTHM JOURNEYS: MASTERS OF JAZZ AND WORLD MUSIC***. The project is a series of free and low-cost concerts showcasing jazz and world music throughout New York City and State in collaboration with local cultural and educational institutions.

Circuit Productions, through its new community outreach series, ***RHYTHM JOURNEYS***, will provide new music and live performances presenting senior and emerging artists in a range of culturally relevant music programming aimed primarily at youth and family audiences in culturally under-served communities state-wide. “We are thrilled to advocate for and present such a diverse group of artists,” said **Susan Goldbetter**, Executive Director of Circuit Productions, “who created and/or revised their music for new underserved communities throughout the city and state.” The three composers, Sarah McLawler, John Miller and Andy Algire will each be featured in performances this Fall. Additional performances will take place through March 2008.

Sarah McLawler will be featured in Carol Sudhalter’s *Astoria Big Band* program, “*Women Composers of Queens*” on Friday, November 16, 2007, 7:30 pm at LaGuardia Performing Arts Center in LIC, Queens. Tickets are \$13 or \$10 for students, seniors and musicians! McLawler’s earliest introduction to music was piano and organ playing in her father’s church in Indiana. Later, she became interested in secular music – Jazz meeting both the famous Hampton family (Lionel and Slyde) and the Wes Montgomery family. Shortly after winning a music scholarship to Fisk University in the 1940’s she began touring with the *Lucky*

Millander Big Band. Striking out on her own she soon formed the "all-girls" band known as *The Syn-Co-Ettes*. Their extraordinary popularity brought them to Chicago where they became the house band at the great Savoy Ballroom. Ms. McLawler's recordings for Brunswick and Vee-Jay Records include some of the greatest standards in jazz music. Sarah is a recipient of a Meet the Composer grant; Outstanding Jazz Artist Award, St. Peters Church; WWRL's Jazz Woman of the Year; a Lifetime Achievement from *International Women in Jazz*; and the Music Danceology Award. In March 2005 she traveled to Virginia Tech University as part of a Ford Foundation grant award through Circuit Productions.

"The Music Fund will allow me to create new work, and present it this Fall (12/20/07) with the Harlem Blues and Jazz Band at the free *Trinity Concerts at One Series*," said **John Miller**, accomplished pianist, composer and arranger. He has recorded, performed and made television appearances with the Stanley Turrentine Band for the past seventeen years. He has also performed with George "Big Nick" Nicholas, Frank Foster, Harold Ousley, Sy Austin, Bruce Hayden and Dee Clark. In the past decade John has recorded albums with Count Basie, Angela DeNiro and the Ron Aprea Orchestra, George Jackson, Mel Bliss, The Baritone Saxophones, and Gene Gardener and the Jazz Recoverers. Mr. Miller has also taught his art extensively throughout New York State and has his own company, Jomil Music. Currently, he is the lead pianist for the legendary Harlem Blues and Jazz Band. They recently appeared at Westchester Community College, the Museum of the City of New York and the Brooklyn Center for Performing Arts at Brooklyn College.

"It's been an extraordinary opportunity having this source of funding to encourage my work," said, **Andy Algire**, composer and performer. Andy plays drum set, congas, African drums and percussion, balafon (wood xylophone), kalimba (thumb piano), keyboards and piano. His performances include the Kennedy Center with Rhythm Exchange World Music Ensemble (REWME), Manhattan Tap, the Lakestreet Foundation and clubs, theaters, festivals both nationally and internationally. For the past five years Andy has worked closely with Irene Koloseus's Fériba: African Rhythm Tap Dance. Artistic Director, Koloseus - a prolific tap and African dance choreographer- creates unique rhythmic patterns using her feet as an additional percussive instrument. The two are currently working on Andy's new work "Sound Bridges" which will be heard during their free performances in "Rhythm Journeys" at Bronx Library Center (11/17/07) and in Westchester, Mt. Vernon and Pelham in March 2008.

The New York State Music Fund published guidelines and criteria and accepted grant applications in a number of categories, including music education and public performances of music by artists working in hip hop, reggae, fusion, jazz, classical and folk music of all cultures. Applications related to recording, distribution, or broadcast through traditional or new media were also eligible. Special emphasis was placed on reaching underserved populations and broadening awareness of artists, genres or styles with limited access to commercial broadcast or other mass distribution vehicles.

Advisory Panels comprised of recognized leaders from a cross-section of the music world evaluated and recommended applications based on criteria focusing on artistic merit and community impact. The award to Circuit Productions was among nearly 400 grants totaling more than \$35 million made by the Music Fund.

About Circuit Productions, Inc.

Circuit Productions, Inc. was founded in 1986 as a non-profit organization dedicated to the promotion, production and preservation of the uniquely American art forms of jazz and tap dance. Our mission is to inspire, entertain and educate underserved audiences in New York through performances, public classes, workshops, and arts education programs featuring senior artists of color who are living legends of the city's rich tap and jazz history. Annually, Circuit provides booking and management services for senior and emerging artists; placing performers in museums, public libraries, community-based organizations, local colleges, public schools, hospitals and nursing homes.

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