



Susan Goldbetter, Producer
Serena Rockower, Bookings and Outreach
Ph/Fax: (718) 638-4878
circuit635@earthlink.net

Circuit Productions, Inc. presents Spring Presentations of
Rhythm Journeys: Masters of Jazz and World Music and
World Beat: Study of Diverse Cultures in NYC

- June music performances of *Rhythm Journeys* will take place at Museum of the City of New York, The Fort Green Market Concerts and the Harlem Meer Performance Festival
- Free *World Beat* performances to feature *Feraba-* African drumming and tap dance; *Burdetsky Family Circus* duet with dancing dogs at Brooklyn venues.

Brooklyn, New York, May 20, 2008 – Circuit Productions, Inc., announced today that Spring 2008 programs will feature the work of three featured music ensembles for ***RHYTHM JOURNEYS: MASTERS OF JAZZ AND WORLD MUSIC***. The project is a series of free and low-cost concerts showcasing blues, jazz and world music throughout New York City in collaboration with local cultural and educational institutions.

Circuit Productions, through its community outreach series, ***RHYTHM JOURNEYS***, continues to provide new music and live performances presenting senior and emerging artists in a range of culturally relevant programming aimed primarily at youth and family audiences. “We are delighted to partner with three premier city organizations dedicated to promoting diverse music programs,” said **Susan Goldbetter**, Executive Director of Circuit Productions.” The artists include the *Smith Brothers*, the *Harlem Blues and Jazz Ensemble* and *Sarah McLawler and Les Femmes Jazz*.

On June 12th, 2008 in collaboration with the Museum of the City of New York’s new exhibit, “Catholics in New York” the ***Smith Brothers*** will perform songs from the 19th and 20th centuries that reflect the history, politics and cultural impact of Catholic culture in New York City from 1808-1946.

On June 14th, 2008 the ***Harlem Blues & Jazz Ensemble*** will be performing at the Fort Greene Concert Series, part of the *Downtown Brooklyn Partnership’s* Music and Dance Festival. The concert takes place near the Greenmarket on the lawn of Fort Greene Park, located at Washington Park Ave. and DeKalb Ave. entrance. Info/Directions: 718-403-1650.

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The ensemble - part of the larger *Harlem Blues & Jazz Band* - stars veteran jazz and blues musicians their musical roots reaching back to the classic period of the 1920s and the 30s. The Band was founded in 1973 by Clyde Bernhardt (trombonist to King Oliver) and Dr. Albert Vollmer and included a core group of musicians who actually "jumped" at the Woodside and "stomped" at the Savoy with Duke Ellington, Cab Calloway, Count Basie, Lionel Hampton, "Fats" Waller, Louis Armstrong, Billie Holiday and other jazz greats.

On Sunday June 22 from 2:00-4:00 pm, *Sarah McLawler* will be featured in the 15th annual Harlem Meer Performance Festival. McLawler, known for her vocals and Hammond organ playing will appear with her all women band, *Les Femmes Jazz*. The Festival, under the guidance of Artistic Director Rob Blumenthal, is one of the most popular free events showcasing some of New York's top local, emerging and established talents. At Circuit Productions we are truly saddened by the untimely passing of our friend and colleague, Rob Blumenthal on May 7, 2008. You may read more about the festival and a memorial piece about Rob on the home page of the Conservancy's website www.centralparknyc.org. The Festival takes place at the Charles A. Dana Discovery Center located inside the Park at 110th Street between Fifth and Lenox Avenues. For details and directions call: 212-310-6658

Spring 2008 also marks upcoming performances of Circuit Productions' *WORLD BEAT: A STUDY OF DIVERSE CULTURES IN NYC* with Brooklyn Public Libraries. On June 5th, from 2:30-3:30 join *Feraba: African Rhythm Tap Duet* at Brooklyn Heights Library located at 280 Cadman Plaza West. For details and directions call: 718-623-7100. On June 6th at 12 noon join in the hilarious antics of the Burdetsky Family Circus duo with their dancing dogs. A live performance will take place at Stone Avenue Library, 581 Mother Gaston Boulevard. For details and directions call: 718-485-8347.

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.

For press and publicity please contact:

Serena Rockower, Bookings/Outreach at Circuit Productions, Inc.

T: 718.638.4878 E-Mail: circuit635@earthlink.net or website: www.circuitproductions.org

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