

Media Contact: Lisa Marshall
University of Minnesota School of Music
612/626-1094 | marsh396@umn.edu
Ferguson Hall, 2106 4th Street S, MPLS, MN 55455

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**University of Minnesota to Host
Martin Luther King and Black History Month Celebration**

MINNEAPOLIS/ST. PAUL (1/26/10) -- On Sunday afternoon, February 21, 2010, from 4:00 – 5:30 p.m., the University of Minnesota will host its annual Martin Luther King and Black History Month Celebration in the University's Ted Mann Concert Hall. The event will feature a program of music, song, readings, and spoken word poetry, highlighted by solos from jazz vocalist, Charmin Michelle, and speech excerpts/readings by actor, vocalist, and educator, T. Mychael Rambo.

When the University of Minnesota's Martin Luther King Concert began nearly 30 years ago, it was the only tribute of its kind in Minnesota. The late Reginald Buckner, School of Music professor and an accomplished performer and composer, founded the concert and began the tradition of celebrating the life and accomplishments of Dr. King through the performing arts. Unfortunately, Professor Buckner died in 1989, but the University honors Buckner's memory and artistic genius by carrying on the inspiring legacy of this annual program. The Martin Luther King Celebration is now a joint program of the University of Minnesota's Office for Equity and Diversity and the School of Music.

This year's program also features music by the Minneapolis South High School Jazz Ensemble, directed by Scott Carter, and violin selections by LaTannia Ellerbe, doctoral student in violin performance in the University of Minnesota's School of Music. Ellerbe will be accompanied on piano by Billy Steele, performer, writer, producer, and the youngest sibling of the musically famous Steele family. The energy of spoken word poetry will fill the concert hall when poets, Lenora Magee, SirMark Gentry, and Kaylord Hill, members of Voices Merging, a University of Minnesota spoken word collective, take the stage.

The concert is free of charge and open to the public; no advance tickets or reservation is required. For more information about the program, *or for disability accommodations*, contact the Office for Equity and Diversity at oed@umn.edu or 612-624-0594. Visit www.academic.umn.edu/equity/MLK2010.html for more information.

(continues)

LISTING INFORMATION

University of Minnesota's Martin Luther King and Black History Month Celebration Sunday, February 21, 2010 from 4-5:30 p.m.

Featuring by Charmin Michelle (jazz vocalist) and T. Mychael Rambo (actor/vocalist/educator).
Performances by South High School Jazz Ensemble, LaTannia Ellerbe (violin) and Billy Steele (piano).
Spoken word poetry by Voices Merging.

Tickets: Free – no advance tickets or reservations required. General Seating.

Ted Mann Concert Hall (University of Minnesota's West Bank Campus)
2128 4th Street South, Minneapolis, MN 55455

Visit <http://www.academic.umn.edu/equity/MLK2010.html> for more information.