

providence SOUND SESSION '06

For Immediate Release
Event Dates: July 16-22, 2006

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SOUND SESSION '06 **A Multi-Genre Music Festival**

Providence, RI – The Providence Black Repertory Company and The City of Providence Department of Art, Culture & Tourism are pleased to announce that Rhode Island's capital city will come alive this July with the City's premier, ground breaking music festival. Sound Session '06 will bring performers from all over the world to New England's second largest city, Providence, for a multi-stage celebration of music July 16th – 22nd. Sound Session's week-long schedule includes free outdoor, all ages concerts at Waterplace Park, intimate performances at Black Rep's Xxodus Café, several community and family events, and a Carnival-style parade ending with a vibrant block party in the heart of downtown.

Transcending musical genres, the performers selected for Sound Session '06 are virtuoso in their field. The juxtaposition of jazz musicians with spoken word artists, hip-hop, house and afro beat, allows musicianship to be in the foreground. This transcultural celebration reflects the dynamic vitality of the new "American" city. The festival has included jazz legend Ron Carter, acclaimed African vocalist Thomas Mapfumo, and New York underground dance sensations, Yerba Buena. Donald King, Artistic Director of the Providence Black Repertory Company, said of Sound Session, "In planning this festival we picked acts the way a good DJ picks his tracks, making selections that excite, educate, surprise and inspire the crowd. The connecting fabric of the festival is excellence. It's in the mix, in the combination of cultures and genres, that artistic excellence stands out."

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a collaboration between The Providence Black Repertory Company & The City of Providence, Department of Art, Culture & Tourism

The festival is a substantial example of Providence's commitment to art and culture, and part of why the New York Times called the city a "Mecca for Tourism and the Arts" in September 2003. Mayor of Providence, David N. Cicilline, said "Sound Session is the beginning of a long term commitment between the City of Providence Department of Art, Culture & Tourism and the Providence Black Repertory Company to bring high quality entertainment to our capital city. This summer's music celebration will mirror the diversity of Providence and demonstrate Providence as a cultural destination."

The festival is produced by **The City of Providence Department of Art, Culture & Tourism** and **The Providence Black Repertory Company**, a 501 (c) 3 non-profit organization. The Providence Black Repertory Company is a cultural institution whose theatre, education and public programs strive to bring people together, provoke thought, inspire hope, and create understanding. The Providence Department of Art, Culture & Tourism was established to ensure the continued development of a vibrant and creative city by integrating arts and culture into community life, while showcasing Providence, as an international cultural destination. The '06 festival line-up will be announced in May. For further information visit www.providencesoundsession.com or call (401) 952-7098

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