

## 2009 Cincinnati Juneteenth Festival Performers



**Saturday,**

**June 20**

The Festival has two performance stages, with simultaneous performances throughout the afternoon. This is a partial list. A more complete line-up with approximate times should be posted on the website by early June.

### **The Rick James Stone City Band 8:00 PM**



The Original Stone City Band is considered by many of their peers as being one of the Greatest Live Performing Funk/Rock Bands of all time! For more than two decades this legendary Band has provided the sound that's been heard on recordings by Rick James, Teena Marie, MC Hammer, The Temptations, The Mary Jane Girls, Eddie Murphy, and Smokey Robinson, just to name a few. The Original Stone City Band is here and ready to Fire Up that Funk!

**Ms. Jaz** Sheila Jordan) has performed at Juneteenth for several years and considers it one of her favorite gigs. She has released several CDs on the D'Mar Entertainment label.

Sheila is a Cincinnati based vocalist and writer and blends adult contemporary, jazz and R & B. She has performed with Phil Perry and opened up for artists such as Bobby "Blue" Bland, Regina Belle, Pieces of A Dream and Marion Meadows. For the past 2 years, she has been performing at the Belterra Casino in Indiana.

The band is composed of talented musicians such as Kerry "Smurf" Jordan on bass, Omar Kemet on keyboards, Jay Reynolds on Saxophone and Byron Anderson on Drums.



**The Last Boppers Musical Cooperative** provides an atmosphere conducive to serious music and performance of new, unrecorded compositions. Its aims include:

- establishing an environment for creative musicians and appreciators;
- educating younger musicians and appreciators about the true origins of jazz music and the power of creative music;
- sponsoring free training programs for young musicians and assisting with job opportunities;
- setting an example of high moral standards for musicians.

The Last Boppers have performed at the Juneteenth Festival since 2007.



**Bi-Okoto Drum & Dance Theatre** was established in 1994 as a professional African dance company comprised of highly talented artists and was incorporated in August 1996 as a 501 (c) (3) non-profit multicultural performing arts organization in the state of Ohio.

Over the years, it has grown to be one of the most artistically accomplished and stable cultural institute in the Tri-state. The Company is highly regarded for its innovative repertory and programming both nationally and internationally.

Bi-Okoto has earned a reputation as one of the country's finest professional African traditional dance companies. The company has been praised by the dance community and the media for the works they have created and produced, and also for being the only outstanding authentic African Dance Company in the Tri-state area, (Ohio, Kentucky and Indiana).



In 2003, 2004, and 2005, Bi-Okoto was selected by United States Armed Forces Entertainment for five-week military tours in the United Kingdom, Norway, The Netherlands, Germany and Belgium where seven artists performed for our troops on American and United Nation bases, in honor of Black History Month for each of those years.

**Basic Truth** is one of Cincinnati's most popular groups playing old-school dance music since 1998. In addition to regular appearances at the Juneteenth Festival (since 2005), the group has performed at live entertainment clubs all over the Greater Cincinnati area, even surviving longer as a group than some of the clubs in which the band has performed. Basic Truth holds the record for most live performances on Mojo 94.9 . Basic Truth has performed at some of Cincinnati's biggest annual events.

With its current line-up of C.C. (lead and background vocals), MarTinez Butts (guitar, background and lead vocals), Bill Dandridge (bass, background vocals) and Wes Dandridge (drums), Basic Truth continues to play the old-school R&B, soul and funk jams that Cincinnati loves to dance to.



**J. Gram** is Cincinnati's first nationally acclaimed Hip Hop artist, and was the first local rapper to be put into power rotation on 100.9 FM "The WIZ". Gram's single "Big Spenda" has been playing in heavy rotation on mix shows throughout the Midwest and Southeast, and he has been showcased at various clubs throughout the country. "Cin Weekly", which is a subsidiary of the *Cincinnati Enquirer*, has featured J. Gram as a rising artist, and as a result of his growing acclaim several industry gurus have taken notice. J. Gram's debut album "Big Spenda" consists of several HOT tracks produced by Hi-Tek, previously of Black Star, a trio that included Mos Def and Talib Kweli from Rawkus/Capitol Records.



**Saba Jazz Latin** offers a rich assortment of jazz, blues, R&B with a Latin twist. Saba Latin Jazz features Saba on vocals, Andre Souza on bass; Jack Walker on saxophone and flute; Jorge Zilo on Brazilian percussion and guitar, Greg Woody on guitar; Abdullah Rahim on keyboards.



**William Landrum** known as **Love Child** is the founder, owner, and producer of Love Child Records. He is a native of Chicago and relocated to Cincinnati from Minnesota. He is an loves to perform and entertain. He sings and plays keyboard,

guitar, drums, and bass. He believes that God has given him the talent to soothe & relax people with his music.

**Blazing Hearts Bahai Youth Workshop** was formed in 2003. Membership varies from 10 to 15 kids who come from Indianapolis, Cincinnati, Columbus, and Dayton. They have performed at the Springfield Peace Camp, The Juneteenth Festival, Schools and other festivals in the four city radius. This May, they will perform at the Human Relations Conference in Sharonville, OH. Blazing Hearts' goal is to teach community, peace, and diversity through music and movement.



**The house of Traction Dance team** has been together for 6 years. The group of 14 members, is composed of girls and boys from many communities throughout the city. The Director Ms. Cassandra Thomas has been instructing dance teams for twenty-six years. She feels that "children with a positive purpose will keep a positive focus". House of Traction has performed around the city and competes around the country.



**Kenny Smith** directs a Kenny Smith's Peace and Serenity Ministries. "Peace and Serenity," as he calls it, has been his pet project for the past 18 years.

The group performs in various locations around the city, including churches, nursing homes, parks, prisons and schools. They sing all types of music: Classical, Gospel, Jazz, some a cappella and have had two productions at the Aronoff Center. This will be their last public performance in Cincinnati as Smith is moving to New York to pursue a musical career.

**Rhetorical spirit of Praise** is a liturgical Dance group that shares its ministry around the city at churches, festivals, community centers, nursing homes and schools. These girls show their love of God through their dance.

**New Brasil** shows the richness of Brazilian music, the extraordinary mixture of sounds that originated with Portuguese, native Brazilians and Africans. The result is quite unique: the Portuguese cavaquinho (4 strings small guitar) marries the cuica (a friction African kind of drum), the fado becomes the chorinho and the berimbau permeates the songs. All of this creates a new musical world bringing together Europe, America and Africa. Bossa Nova and Samba are probably the most known Brazilian styles; Brazilian music has been in the US for a long time, Arto Lindsay, Pat Metheny, Toots Thielemann, Sarah Vaughn are some of the names most easily associated with it... New Brasil invites you

to be part of a new wave. Listen, feel and dance!

**Samba Batucada samba soul!** Brazilian African rhythm drums and more! Samba, carnival and exotic Brazilian bits! The group demonstrate Brazilian bits originated from Africa along with chant and traditional dance.



**Dunamis Sign & Mime Ministry** is a worship arts ministry that was born out of the Youth Group of New Creation Community Church (Cincinnati, Ohio) under the direction and leadership of Pastor Christopher R. Battle, Sr. and Youth Minister, Rana J. Junius in October of 1999. This ministry has been under the direction of Yolanda White since July of 2001. The Dunamis Sign & Mime Ministry ministers through the medium of gospel music, sign language and mime. This ministry is teen focused and is teen comprised.



**Todd Smith** is a local MC and DJ Who entertains for school dances, community events and private parties and wedding receptions. He is very active with young upcoming artist in the community and finds venues for them to get exposure.

**African Rhythms & Praise: Oluwasegun Samson Olatunji** popularly called "Sam" here in the states, hails from Ilundun Iketi, Nigeria.

He started his solo career when he left his local church choir to start "Reaching the Unreached Music." While in Nigeria he was known for organizing musical concerts in schools, community churches and campuses with his band boys Return Broadaz. He released his first album, "Silekun" (Open the Door) with his wife after he relocated to America with her and their son in 2007. Immediately after settling in the Cincinnati area, he started blessing his communities with his African Rhythms and Praises. He and his group of singers and dancers have ministered in many churches in and out of Ohio. He's presently working on his album "Nobody Else."

**Bernell Wright** is Minister of Music for the St. Luke Baptist Church and the North Star 7th-Day Adventist Church where she is a member. Her purpose in life is to carry God's message through song throughout Greater Cincinnati and anywhere else she is asked to go. In 1989 she was a featured guest, along with her singing group, at the late Dr. James Cleveland's Anniversary in California. She was selected to sing in two movies, **JUST PASSING Through** and **THIS TRAIN...** Both shot here in Cincinnati.



**The Walnut Hills High School Gospel Choral Ensemble**, formally the Gospel Choir, has been singing for well over 16 years. It is not known by the current advisor how and by whom it was started, but it has been and still continues to be an important organization in the school. Throughout the years, the group has boasted to have as many as 40 members and several very committed advisors. In addition to singing at the school, the Ensemble receives numerous invitations to sing around the Greater Cincinnati area. The group attracts students of all ethnicities and cultures and provides, for many, their first opportunity to sing in an organized choir. It has been the springboard for many outstanding young singers who had never sung a solo before joining. Thus, according to the advisor, one of the Ensemble's main goals is to discover and hone the skills of new talent.

**The Cincinnati Gospel Music Workshop Choir** is a part of the Gospel Music Workshop of America, formed by James Cleveland in 1967. This choir is composed of people who love gospel music from different denomination and non-denominations around Greater Cincinnati many of who are recording

artist on their own . The Gospel Music Great, Charles Fold, was its director for many years. The Cincinnati Group will host the Annual week long workshop of The Gospel Music Workshop of American in July. This international group will compose a choir of two to four thousand members that will make a recording as a part of it annual session.

**Rockdale Baptist Church Praise Choir** shares its praise ministry at churches, nursing homes, and festivals.

**Peterson Mingo and the Christ Temple Missionary Baptist Church Praise Singers** Minister to churches, People in nursing homes, Community Events and Prisons. Their gospel and spirituals singing is a Testimony of their desire to share God's love with all who are willing to receive it.

**Melody in Motion** is a group of young adults who perform sign language to express the lyrics of music. They are graduates of Bobbie B. Fairfax School which is part of the Hamilton County Board of Mental Retardation/Developmental Disabilities. This group has performed with the Cincinnati Civic Orchestra. They have also been on TV, and have appeared at Summer Fair and the Juneteenth Festival. They Perform at local malls churches and schools. They are directed by Mellissa Holmes, Music specialist, at Bobbie B. Fairfax School.



**Winds of Praise (formally known as Judah)** is group of diverse people that come from different denominations with various musical backgrounds and training . This diversity gives our ministry an enriched musical sound so that when we praise and worship it sets the atmosphere for God's presence and helps the people to forget about their troubles and allows them to just focus on their relationship with God. Christopher Gillium is the Minister of Music leading this group into praise and worship.



**The Nouveau Chamber Players** - The Cincinnati Symphony Orchestra is pleased to present the CSO Nouveau Chamber Players, comprised of six African-American high school string students.

These students successfully auditioned for the group and perform recitals in the community throughout the year. The CSO is providing CSO Nouveau Chamber Players with free chamber music lessons and coaching by local violinist Marion Peraza de Webb.

**Mighty Men** of New Prospect Baptist Church is a male chorus that specializes Singing spirituals. This acappella group uses their music to minister in churches, nursing homes and other community setting.

#### Juneteenth Festival Historical Reenactors



**Stanley Wernz** is one of the nation's leading **Abraham Lincoln** portrayers and has appeared at the last three Juneteenth Festivals. After opening the Festival with a reading of the Emancipation Proclamation, he will talk informally as Lincoln with adults and children through the afternoon.

**Michael E. Crutcher, Sr.** portrays Frederick Douglass. A former assistant professor at U.K. of Lexington, he is a devout scholar of Frederick Douglass. He was inspired to portray Fredrick Douglass after research revealed his great-great grandfather



was a member of the 13th United States Colored Troops Heavy Artillery out of Camp Nelson, KY. His calling is to share Douglass' principles of freedom, equality, religion, and self-esteem.



**Pat Fann's** portrayal of Underground Railroad conductor **Harriet Tubman** has been a regular feature of the Juneteenth Festival. She has compiled a history of Harriet Trumann and is working on plans for the *Harriet Tubman Project*, a museum dedicated to memorializing the woman who led over 300 slaves from slavery to freedom and boasted that she had "never lost a single passenger."

**Christopher J. Miller** portrays the **Rev. J.W. Loguen**, a minister whose mother was born free in Ohio and kidnapped into slavery in Tennessee while a young girl. Loguen escaped slavery via the Underground Railroad and became station master in Syracuse, NY. Mr. Miller is a historical reenactor for the National Underground

Railroad Freedom Center.



**Robert Clements** of the James Ramage Civil War Museum portrays a Union soldier. He will be accompanied by others, whose names are not now available.

**The 5th U.S. Colored Troop Company C** was formed in 1999, with headquarters in Toledo. With a current strength of 19 members (11 male & 8 female) they promote the long ignored history of the USCT, portraying Civil War camp life with both soldiers and civilians. The troopers will share information regarding the role of colored troops during the war. Women reenact camp life (as contraband) following the troops.