



OAKWOOD UNIVERSITY

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Oakwood's Festival of Spirituals Moves to VBC

Huntsville, Ala. — The public is invited to the sixth biannual Festival of Spirituals, featuring world renown Historically Black College and University (HBCU) choirs. Due to growing popularity of this event, the venue has been changed from the Oakwood University Church to the Von Braun Center South Hall 2. There is no admission charge for this program, scheduled for **Sunday, February 21, 2010 at 4:30 p.m.**

The program is supported in part by a grant from the Alabama State Council on the Arts, and will feature 12 HBCU Choirs of Alabama, Georgia and Tennessee, in addition to local church chorales. Following a musical prelude, the main event will begin with the 500 voice mass choir performing "The Battle Hymn of the Republic" directed by Dr. Joel C. Jones of Alabama State University. Each school choir will present two spirituals. The Grand Finale will feature the mass choir under the direction of Professor Jason Max Ferdinand of Oakwood University singing "Some Day," a song dedicated to Martin Luther King, Jr., and arranged by Nathan Carter.

In recognition of outstanding community service and contributions to society, education and the Arts, several citizens will be honored at the festival. The honorees include:

- Loretta Spencer – Immediate Past Mayor of Huntsville
- Dennis Keim – Retired NASA Aerospace/underwater photographer
- Ginger Beazley – Opera performer and Founder of the Ars Nova School of the Arts
- Howard Bullard – Artist, Graphic Designer, Businessman
- T. Marshall Kelly – Singing Evangelist/Minister, Radio Talk Show Host, Educator
- Take 6 – World famous/award winning music group

Master and Mistress of Ceremonies will be WEUP Radio Talk Show Host, David Person and Huntsville Arts Council Programs Production Manager, Joanna Broad White, respectively.

Although there is no charge, contributions will be accepted.

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