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EXPRESSIONS OF FREEDOM – YOUTHFUL, POWERFUL PERFORMANCES

July 23, 2009 – Without a doubt, one of the most highly anticipated concerts of the Emancipation celebrations has to be the Pan-African Spectacular featuring great acts from across the Diaspora. Last year, Lebo M, one of the four principal composers of the original Disney animated feature film *The Lion King*, performed. This year will be the turn of the Senegalese dance troupe KanKouran. Joining them will be top-class local entertainers Ziggy Rankin, King David, singing duo I-Sasha and Million Voice and 12 the Band. This year's show, "Expressions of Freedom," gets underway on Friday, July 31 at 8:00p.m. at the Lidj Yasu Omowale Emancipation Village at the Queens Park Savannah

Special guests for the 2009 Pan African Spectacular will be the **KanKouran West African Dance Company**. *(This engagement is supported by the Mid Atlantic Arts Foundation through USArtists International in partnership with the National Endowment for the Arts and the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation.)* Based in Washington DC, the dance troupe was founded sixteen years ago by Assane Konte, who is the troupe's Artistic Director and Abdou Kounta who was the group's former musical director.

MID ATLANTIC
ARTS FOUNDATION



ASSANE KONTE – ARTISTIC DIRECTOR KANKOURAN



Assane Konte, a national of Senegal, West Africa, began dancing at the age of 12 with many prominent traditional dancers on the Continent. By age 15 he joined his first professional ballet - "Ballet Africaine de Diebel Guee" of Dakar, Senegal. He came to the United States in 1978 to pursue a career as a performer and founded the dance company in 1983.

Today, the company whose members were born in the United States, Africa and the Caribbean, is dedicated to preserving and sharing the culture of Africa. KanKouran functions much like a traditional African community, where given the communal nature of African culture, each individual understands his or her role in maintaining the oneness of the community to the benefit of the entire community, and each individual is encouraged to contribute and participate to the extent of that person's talents and abilities.



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ZIGGY RANKIN



Sharing the stage with KanKouran will be popular local entertainers, Ziggy Rankin, well known in Trinidad for his hits, *Miserable Life*, *Zion Train* and *Girl Next Door*; King David, the versatile artiste known for his dancehall, reggae and soca stylings; singing brothers I-Sacha and Million Voice – each a solo artiste in his own right but coming together to inspire particularly young people with their songs of poverty, crime, love. 12 the Band is a musical collaboration founded in 1999 by singer



and songwriter Sheldon Holder. 12's permanent members are Sheldon Holder, Brendon Moore, Nigel Irish and John Hussain. They perform music that they describe as a, "conscious fusion of the indigenous music of Trinidad and Tobago, primarily Calypso, with other popular forms of music such as Reggae, Rock, Soul, and Jazz to create a sound affectionately called Neo Calypso."



Million Voice & I-Sasha



12 THE BAND

The ESC invites the public to what promises to be a truly dynamic concert. Tickets priced at \$150 Special reserved and \$100 General Admission are available at Cleve's One Stop Shop, Crosby's North and South and Emancipation Support Committee

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