

**Dr. Larry Ridley**

African American Jazz Caucus, Inc.

3 Stuyvesant Oval Suite 9B New York , NY

10009-2128

Phone (212) 979-0304

[www.AAJC.us](http://www.AAJC.us)

**Dr. Ronald Myers, Sr.**

National Association of Juneteenth Jazz Presenters, Inc.

P.O. Box 29

Belzoni, MS 39038

Phone (662) 247-3364

[www.JuneteenthJazz.com](http://www.JuneteenthJazz.com)

# Press Release

The African American Jazz Caucus, Inc. (AAJC) in partnership with the National Association of Juneteenth Jazz Presenters, Inc. (NAJJP) celebrate Juneteenth and Black Music Month with a symposium at the Hayti Heritage Center, 804 Fayetteville Street, Durham, NC, (919) 683-1709, June 26 & 27, 2009. The joint project initiated by the AAJC, whose offices are at Durham's historic Golden Belt, is part of a community outreach program within the Triangle area focusing on jazz as a rare and valuable American treasure that continues to influence other genres of music.

The symposium will be launched on Friday, June 26, 2009 at 2:00 PM with an interactive workshop entitled "Jazz and Hip Hop – Musical and Historical Connections". The workshop will be conducted by Dr. Will Smith, Executive Director of the W.E.S. Group, Coordinator of Music Industry at North Carolina Central University, Jazz musician and Hip Hop artist. The workshop will demonstrate the connections between jazz and hip hop music. Workshop activities will provide students, teachers and other participants with a clear understanding of the unifying features of cultural creations that emanate from the African American community. Sample curricula will be provided to participating teachers that can be adapted to their lesson plans.

An evening performance by Dr. Smith and the W.E.S. Group at 7:00 PM will incorporate the educational, musical and storytelling principles demonstrated during the afternoon workshop.

For Release 9 a.m. EDT, April 17, 2009

On Saturday, June 27th at 2:00 PM there will be a panel discussion entitled “Jazz, the Church and the Community”. It will explore the relationship between sacred versus secular music, how each is perceived by the African American community and how it has influenced the political, social and economic aspects of American culture. The Moderator will be Mr. Keith McKinley, Esq., AAJC President. The members of the panel will be:

- Rev. Marvin Chandler, Lecturer, Pianist, Indianapolis, IN
- Rev. Jean-Luc Charles, Associate Pastor, White Rock Baptist Church, Durham, NC
- Rev. Ronald Myers, Sr., M.D., Director, Fellowship of Creative Christian Jazz Musicians (FCCJM) & Chairman, National Association of Juneteenth Jazz Presenters (NAJJP), Belzoni, MS
- Rev. Michael Page, Executive Director, United Christian Campus Ministry at North Carolina Central University and Pastor of Antioch Baptist Church, Durham, NC
- Rev. Canon, Edwin E. Smith, Retired Episcopal Minister, Glen Mills, PA
- Dr. Will Smith, Executive Director, W.E.S. Group, Coordinator of Music Industry, North Carolina Central University, Durham, NC

A “Juneteenth Jazz Worship Concert” will be performed at 7:00 PM by National Juneteenth Jazz Director, Rev. Ronald Myers, on piano and trumpet and the “Juneteenth Jazz Praise Ensemble”, featuring Derrick Brown on bass, Wilton Knott, on percussion and Aye Aton, on drums. The performance will also feature the “The Love Christian Center Male Chorus” under the direction of Choir Director, Audie Heard. The chorus is supported by Pastor Bishop W. Ronald and Mother Lotus Hash. The Center is located in East Spencer, NC.

The work of Mr. Jim Alexander, noted photojournalist and AAJC Official Photo Documentarian, will be on exhibit throughout the two day symposium. His exhibit “Those Who Praise Him” will include a selection of jazz and hip hop artists such as Duke Ellington, Mary Lou Williams, Dizzy Gillespie, Donald Byrd and Russell Gunn whose musical works reflect the deep spiritual roots inherent in black music. Mr. Alexander’s work has been exhibited nationally and internationally and is in many public and private collections, including the Smithsonian.

This event will prove to be not only educational, but inspiring and entertaining. The panel discussion and workshop are free and open to the general public. Evening performances: \$15, Students and Seniors \$10