

# PRESS RELEASE



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## **Mosaic Young Artist Sings Her Way to Opening For Motown Recording Artist KEM at Detroit's Chene Park**

Detroit – August 06, 2007 – On August 11, 2007, **Mosaic Youth Theatre of Detroit Young Artist, Aris Yancey, 17**, will experience a life-transforming moment when she steps out onto the stage of Chene Park to open for Motown recording artist, and Detroit-native, KEM. Yancey earned the once-in-a-lifetime opportunity by winning *The Kem & Friends Teen Talent Show* held recently at YouthVille Detroit.

When Yancey arrived at YouthVille for the first round of the competition she was met by over 200 other young singers equally eager for a chance at stardom. Notable music industry, and local celebrities including, Khary Turner of Black Bottom Collective, vocalist Penny Wells and Carolyn Clifford of WXYZ-TV7, radio personality Frankie Darcell, and KEM himself, served as judges. And while the competition was intense to be sure, at the conclusion of the first round, Yancey was one of the 25 singers selected to move on to the final round, where a chill-inducing performance of *Great Is Thy Faithfulness* would seal her winning fate.

"I wasn't nervous," said Yancey, "I pretended I was just singing in church...but I kept thinking there was no way I was going to win." Used to singing in front of 1000's at Perfecting Church since she was 11, Yancey is also a member of the internationally-acclaimed Mosaic Singers. "Mosaic prepared me for this competition and I am so thankful for that," stated Yancey. "The judges said part of the reason I won was because I dressed professional and took the competition seriously...the credit for that goes to Mosaic. Not only did Mosaic train my voice, but they trained me to be prepared, humble and professional."

This Detroit native, a senior at Cody High School, plans to make a career out of singing. The attention and exposure Yancey has received from winning the competition has put her well on her way as several producers and recording labels have already contacted her.

Yancey will spend the next few days preparing for her debut at Chene Park, singing the very song that won her the competition. "I'm going to be signing with KEM in front of over 6,000 people," Yancey said excitedly. "I can't wait!"

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*Named the 2006 best-managed nonprofit by Crain's Detroit Business, Mosaic Youth Theatre of Detroit is a national model for youth development through the arts. Mosaic's mission is to empower young people to maximize their potential through professional performing arts training and the creation of first-rate theatrical and musical art. Mosaic's all-teen performances have toured Africa, Asia, Europe and the U.S., and have been featured on NBC's Today Show, NPR's All Things Considered, and was the subject of the Michigan Emmy Award®-winning PBS documentary, And They Flew: The Story of Mosaic Youth Theatre. For more information about Mosaic Youth Theatre of Detroit visit [www.mosaicdetroit.org](http://www.mosaicdetroit.org).*