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MOSAIC PRESENTS INSPIRING STORY OF FISK UNIVERSITY'S CHOIR

May 9-18 at the Detroit Film Theatre inside the Detroit Institute of Arts

DETROIT, March 25, 2008 – Mosaic Youth Theatre of Detroit culminates its fifteenth anniversary season this May with the world premiere of an authentic American story, ***SING JUBILEE! The Story of the Fisk Jubilee Singers***. Presented by General Motors Corporation, ***SING JUBILEE!*** is set to captivate the heart, mind, and soul of audience members at the Detroit Film Theatre inside the Detroit Institute of Arts the weekends of May 9 and May 16.

SING JUBILEE!, an original play written by University of Michigan playwright-in-residence OyamO, is one of the most inspiring stories in the history of African American music. In 1871, the Fisk Jubilee Singers, made up of students from Fisk University, introduced the world to the songs of enslaved African Americans. The 'Negro spirituals' they performed served as a musical oral history passed down from generation to generation and expressed their deep religious beliefs, unbendable faith, and their ever present yearning for freedom from oppression. Though they faced their own share of discrimination and racism in attempting to perform, they ultimately persevered by tearing down racial and social barriers. The Fisk Jubilee Singers continue the tradition today as one of the most highly regarded choirs in the United States.

Rick Sperling, Founder and CEO of Mosaic, returns to his acting roots in a feature role as George L. White, the man responsible for organizing the original Fisk Jubilee choir to raise money to keep Fisk University from shutting its doors. It is art imitating life for Sperling, who founded Mosaic 15 years ago in an effort to transform the lives of metro Detroit area youth through Mosaic's intensive, professional-level theatrical and musical training programs.

"The story of the Fisk Singers is an important because it shows how a group of young people could have a tremendous impact on their society through music," stated Sperling. "There is an obvious parallel between the Fisk singers use of music as a unifying, healing medium and what Mosaic strives to do with our productions. We felt like our young artists were uniquely suited to tell this story."

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Mosaic
SING JUBILEE!
Add One

Performances of **SING JUBILEE!** will take place at the Detroit Film Theatre inside the Detroit Institute of Arts on Friday, May 9 through Sunday, May 11 and Friday, May 16 through Sunday, May 18. Friday and Saturday performances are at 8:00 p.m. and Sunday performances are at 4:00 p.m. Tickets are \$20 for general admission and \$12 for students and seniors.

Tickets for the 4 p.m. Sunday, May 11 and May 19 **SING JUBILEE!** performances will be part of the “**Target Half-Price Family Matinees**” generously sponsored by Target®. General admission as well as senior and student tickets will be available for 50 percent off the regular price!

Tickets can be purchased by calling (313) 833-4005 or online at <http://www.mosaicdetroit.org/tickets-may.htm>.

SING JUBILEE! is made possible with the generous support of the General Motors Corporation, Target and 105.9 kiss-fm. Additional sponsors include: Comerica Bank, Blue Cross Blue Shield of Michigan, *WDET 101.9FM*, *The Michigan Chronicle*, *The Michigan FRONT Page*, Michigan Council for Arts & Cultural Affairs and the National Endowment for the Arts.

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Named *Best-Managed Nonprofit* by *Crain's Detroit Business* in 2006, 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.