

For Immediate Release
Date: June 10, 2008
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Newburgh City Hall Celebrates Black Music Month with Concert

At 7:00 PM on Monday, June 16 at City Hall, (83 Broadway in the City of Newburgh) the Ferry Godmother will offer a mini concert to celebrate Black Music Month. This mini-concert will showcase the multi-talented Newburghian, Anthony Stewart. He will perform center-stage on the third floor Council Chambers. Anthony, along with his two sons, will be performing a mini trip through the history of music which originated with Blacks. The concert is being offered by Aquanetta Wright as part of a regular City Council meeting where the city's Mayor Nick Valentine will be presenting her with a proclamation declaring June "Black Music Month" in the City of Newburgh.

Skilled musician and vocalist Anthony G. Stewart is a native of Newburgh. His music career spans over 35 years. He began singing when he was 3yrs old and started playing piano and drums at age 4. The foundation of his music career was nurtured at the Ebenezer Baptist Church where he sung in the choir and began playing piano for the church. In elementary school he was introduced to the brass section of the music world where he played the trombone for the band, orchestra, and jazz ensemble. At age 9, he asked for and received an electric bass guitar for Christmas. At age 12, he was inspired by master pianist Professor Reginald Bogan. He played for the NFA Gospel Chorus and was later approached to play for the SUNY New Paltz Gospel Choir. He later learned music theory which enabled him to write and interpret music for every instrument in the orchestra. Graduating NFA with 2 partial music scholarships, he left his historical mark on the NFA track with a high hurdle record that he held for over 23 years. Anthony served his country in Operation Desert Storm and is currently the Postmaster of the Castle Point VA hospital. Today Anthony, along with his wife Tamara, continues to serve as a pastor of a local church.

June as Black Music Month was created in the mid 70's by members of the Black Music Association to highlight the contributions of Black musicians, as well as the importance of Black radio. In 1979, President Jimmy Carter signed a bill declaring June as Black Music Month. Even today President Bush continues to officially proclaim the month of June as Black Music Month. Bush has noted in his proclamation that Americans should celebrate a "critically important part" of the country's cultural heritage by "highlighting the enduring legacy of African American musicians, singers, and composers."

Recognized and cherished the world over, Black musical genres include blues, jazz, gospel, rhythm and blues and hip hop as well as their many variations. We continue to recognize and celebrate the impact of Black music as a significant part of our nation's history and the world.

The min-concert and celebration is free and open to the public, and city residents are strongly encouraged to attend. For more information call 845 926-8868 or email: info@ferrygodmother.com