FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

University of Minnesota to Host 33rd Annual
Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Tribute featuring Bill Banfield & Jazz Urbane, 1/19/14

MINNEAPOLIS/ST. PAUL (12/13/13) -- On Sunday, January 19, 2014, from 4-6 p.m., the University of Minnesota will host the 33rd Annual Martin Luther King, Jr. Tribute featuring Bill Banfield and Jazz Urbane plus performances by Ysaye Barnwell (Sweet Honey in the Rock), vocalist Yolanda Williams, and high school students from the FAIR School in Minneapolis. The concert will take place at the University’s Ted Mann Concert Hall (2128 4th Street South, Minneapolis, MN 55455, U of M West Bank campus). This program honors Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and Dr. Reginald Buckner, founder of the MLK, Jr. Concert. Jazz 88 FM (KBEM) is a Community Partner for this event.

When the University of Minnesota’s Martin Luther King, Jr. Tribute began more than 30 years ago, it was the only tribute of its kind in Minnesota. The late Reginald Buckner, School of Music professor and an accomplished performer and composer, founded the concert and began the tradition of celebrating the life and accomplishments of Dr. King through the performing arts. After professor Buckner’s death in 1989, the University continued to honor Buckner’s memory and artistic genius by carrying on the inspiring legacy of this annual program. The Martin Luther King Celebration is now a joint program of the University of Minnesota’s Office for Equity and Diversity and the School of Music.

The concert is free of charge and open to the public; no advance tickets or reservations are required. For more information about the program, or for disability accommodations, contact the Office for Equity and Diversity at oed@umn.edu or 612-624-0594. Visit z.umn.edu/MLK2014 for more information.

ARTIST BIOGRAPHIES

Recording artist, composer, and author Bill Banfield currently serves as professor of Africana Studies/Music and Society, director of Africana Studies programs, Berklee College of Music. Prior he as served as the Endowed Chair Humanities, Fine Arts, professor of Music, director of American Cultural Studies/Jazz, Popular, World Music Studies, University of St. Thomas, MN (1997-2005). A native Detroiter, he received his Bachelor of Music from the New England Conservatory of Music in Boston, a Master of Theological Studies from Boston University and a Doctor of Musical Arts in composition from the University of Michigan.

Banfield’s works have been commissioned, performed and recorded by orchestras including; the National, Atlanta, Dallas, Akron, Detroit, New York Virtuoso, Grand Rapids, Akron, Richmond, Toledo, Savannah, Indianapolis, Sacramento and San Diego symphonies. His works as composer and performing jazz artist are carried on Atlantic, TelArc, Collins Classics (London), Centaur, Albany/Visionary recordings and Innova records. Banfield served as Assistant professor, African American Studies/Music, Indiana University (1992-1997) where he developed the Undine Smith Moore Collection of Scores and Manuscripts of Black Composers a permanent archives collection at the university and the Extensions concerts featuring the works of Black composers an annual recital still running.
**Ysaye M. Barnwell** appears as a vocalist and/or instrumentalist on more than thirty recordings with Sweet Honey In The Rock and other artists. She has, for the past thirty years spent much of her time off stage working as a master teacher and choral clinician in African American cultural performance. Her workshop “Building a Vocal Community®: Singing in the African American Tradition” has been conducted on three continents for the past 25 years, making her work in the field a significant source of inspiration for both singers and non-singers, a model of pedagogy for educators, cultural activists, and historians.

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