

For Immediate Release

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"Sphinx Journeys" Premieres on WRCJ 90.9 FM

(February 27, 2009 — Detroit, MI) The Sphinx Organization, internationally known for its efforts to increase diversity in classical music and for its annual competition for young Black and Latino string players, commences a new initiative this weekend which highlights Black and Latino Classical Composers and Performers. *Sphinx Journeys*, a seven-part radio series, will take listeners on an exploration of music created by composers and performers of color. The series premieres March 1 on WRCJ 90.9 FM and will be heard on Sundays at 5 p.m.

Each one-hour episode is hosted by Sphinx Organization Founder and President Aaron Dworkin. "We're honored to have this opportunity to introduce the works of Black and Latino classical musicians to a larger audience," said Dworkin. "I think listeners will be pleasantly surprised by the rich and varied music they'll hear."

The first episode is "A Journey of the Harlem Quartet," featuring the all Black and Latino professional string ensemble comprised of First Place Laureates of the national Sphinx Competition. The quartet consists of violinists Ilmar Gavilan and Melissa White along with violist Juan Miguel Hernandez and cellist Desmond Neysmith. Listeners will hear The Harlem Quartet playing music from *At the Octoroon Balls*, composed by Wynton Marsalis; *Mi Menor Conga* by Guido Lopez Gavilan (Ilmar's father); and *Take the A Train*, by Billy Strayhorn. The First Episode can be heard online here:

http://www.wrcjfm.org/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=85&Itemid=99

Other episodes will focus on the music of William Grant Still, Samuel Coleridge-Taylor, Ástor Piazzolla and many others. All future programs may also be heard online, at time of broadcast, at www.wrcjfm.org and will eventually be available "on demand" at the same site.

Sphinx Journeys is a co-production of WRCJ 90.9 FM and The Sphinx Organization, with funding provided by The Kresge Foundation and the Michigan Council for Arts and Cultural Affairs. WRCJ 90.9 FM is a listener supported service of Detroit Public Schools and Detroit Public Television.

The Sphinx Organization is a national non-profit founded in 1996 by Aaron Dworkin, recipient of a 2005 MacArthur Fellow grant and a graduate of the Interlochen Arts Academy and the University of Michigan. A violinist himself, he founded the organization to help overcome the cultural stereotypes of classical music, and to encourage the participation of Blacks and Latinos in the field. More information is available at www.sphinxmusic.org.