


FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

 The logo for the Jazz Arts Group features the word "JAZZ" in a stylized, bold, red font with a jagged, flame-like outline. To the right of "JAZZ", the words "arts group" are written in a smaller, lowercase, red sans-serif font.	<p>Date: October 3, 2007 Contact: Jerry Wade Interim Director of Communications Phone: 614.294.5200, x 110 Email: <a href="mailto:jwade@jazzartsgroup.org">jwade@jazzartsgroup.org</a> <i>Electronic images available upon request.</i></p>
---	---

## CJO PRESENTS WORLD PREMIERE MULTIMEDIA EVENT: *JAZZ PLAYS ART*

Columbus, Ohio— The Columbus Jazz Orchestra, under the direction of Byron Stripling, once again shakes up the modern music scene with *Jazz Plays Art*, a multimedia concert event presented in the *Swingin' at the Southern* series.

Featuring the art of Columbus natives Aminah Brenda Lynn Robinson and Kojo Kamau, this event presents a unique view of Columbus's rich cultural history. The works of both Ms. Robinson and Mr. Kamau draw deeply from their collective recollections: oral narrations of the Central Ohio community, memories of a segregated past, their rich familial histories and the echoes of the African Diaspora. Their art is passionate, emotional and inherently committed to Columbus.

The Jazz Arts Group has commissioned famed band leader John Clayton to compose a suite of 'impressions' of Ms. Robinson's works. *Aminah Robinson: The Symphonic Poet* is a 13-movement epic composed specifically for the Columbus Jazz Orchestra. Invoking images and memories of childhood, the chains of slavery and the connections between parent and child, *Aminah Robinson: The Symphonic Poet* is mesmerizing – a multilayered marathon of creative outputs.

"Musicians have always been inspired by great art," Mr. Stripling said of the event's motivation. "Aminah is always creating. The art is in her and it's always trying to get out."

*Jazz Plays Art* will showcase Central Ohio's own Milt Ruffin Chorale and the stunning gospel vocalist Nia Allen.

The Columbus Museum of Art has collaborated with the Columbus Jazz Orchestra to provide all *Jazz Plays Art* ticketholders one free admission to the Columbus Museum of Art's limited engagement of *Along Water Street*, a new collection of Ms. Robinson's works. Patrons may present any *Jazz Plays Art* ticket stub for one admission. In a reciprocal offer, all Columbus Museum of Art members will receive a \$10 discount on any *Jazz Plays Art* ticket with the presentation of a valid membership card. Contact the Columbus Jazz Orchestra box office at 614.294.5200 x3 for further details.

The CJO's Saturday evening performance of *Jazz Plays Art* will be broadcast live on WOSU-FM, Classical 89.7.

Single tickets (\$35-48) for the October 24 - 28 concerts are available for purchase online at [jazzartsgroup.org](http://jazzartsgroup.org) or from the Jazz Arts Group ticket office, (614.294.5200, x 3). Discounted Student Rush tickets (valid college ID required) and Be-Bop Balcony tickets (ages 6-18) are available at the door.

The event will be held Wednesday, October 24 to Sunday, October 28 at the Southern Theatre. Each performance will begin at 8 pm, except for Sunday when the matinee begins at 2 pm and is repeated at 7:30 pm.

*Jazz Plays Art* is sponsored by AEP Ohio, with media support from WCBE 90.5 FM, The Columbus Dispatch and WBNS 10TV.

--

#### ABOUT EACH ARTIST:

##### AMINAH ROBINSON

Aminah Robinson is a native of Columbus, Ohio and an alumna of the Columbus College of Art and Design (1960). Ms. Robinson is the first living artist to be honored with an exhibition at the Columbus Museum of Art (*Pages in History: The Art of Aminah Robinson*) and her work is featured as a permanent installation in the Columbus Metropolitan Library. Educated in drawing, book-making and needlework by her parents during her childhood on the city's East Side, many of Ms. Robinson's works feature 'found' items such as buttons, shells, sticks and leaves.

##### JOHN CLAYTON

John Clayton is the conductor and co-founder of the acclaimed Clayton-Hamilton Jazz Orchestra. He has received six Grammy nominations and has written and arranged music for such greats as Diana Krall, Natalie Cole, Gladys Knight, Nancy Wilson and Dr. John. As a bassist, he has performed with artists such as Monty Alexander, Count Basie, Milt Jackson and his own group, the Clayton Brothers Quintet. Mr. Clayton also wrote the platinum-selling arrangement of "The Star Spangled Banner", famously sung by Whitney Houston during half time at the 1991 Super Bowl.

##### KOJO KAMAU

Kojo Kamau is a native of Columbus, Ohio and is best known for his documentative photographic style. His most recent project, *Columbus Remembered*, is an anthology of photographs from Columbus both past and present (1960 and 2006). Mr. Kamau works heavily in alleviating the misconceptions of both Africa and the African community.

##### MILT RUFFIN

Milt Ruffin currently serves as chorus director at the New Salem Baptist Church in addition to his position as principal and director of the Ft. Hayes Metropolitan Education Center (Columbus Public Schools). Mr. Ruffin has been involved with gospel productions with both the Columbus Symphony and the Columbus Jazz Orchestra and has performed as a bassist with artists including Lou Rawls, George Clinton and Rick James.

**NIA ALLEN**

Nia Allen is a graduate of the Berklee College of Music in Boston, Massachusetts and has performed with the Columbus Symphony, Men of Standard and Pastor Marvin Sapp.

###

*The Columbus Jazz Orchestra (CJO) is the flagship ensemble of the Jazz Arts Group (JAG), America's oldest not-for-profit arts organization dedicated to producing, performing and promoting jazz. The CJO—which performs nearly 50 concerts each season—is considered one of the finest jazz orchestras in the world and consists of musicians who are nationally and internationally known as performers and educators.*

The Jazz Arts Group receives ongoing support from the Ohio Arts Council, the Greater Columbus Arts Council, and The Columbus Foundation.