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Minnesota Arts & Cultural Heritage Fund Brings Taj Weekes to Perform at State University and Speak on Behalf of Nonprofit TOCO

Minnesota Arts and Cultural Heritage Fund sponsors Taj Weekes visit with a show at Minnesota State University Mankato and personal appearances at the Mankato YMCA and KMSU radio speaking on behalf of his nonprofit, They Often Cry Outreach (TOCO)

New York, NY - March 22, 2010 - The Minnesota Arts and Cultural Heritage Fund (ACHF) sponsored Taj Weekes and Adowa's three day visit to Mankato, MN with community appearances, radio shows and a performance at the Minnesota State University (MNSU).

Taj Weekes commenced his visit as a guest on the student-hosted radio program "A La Carte" at the Centennial Student Union. Weekes played several songs on his acoustic guitar and shared his thoughts about health and wellness with the students who congregated at the live broadcast.

The following day, Weekes was a featured guest on the KMSU Radio program "Good Health - It's Your Choice," which focused on nutrition and exercise as related to early onset Type II Diabetes and Weekes' non-profit organization, They Often Cry Outreach (TOCO). Hosted by James Gullickson, KMSU manager, additional program guests will include Dr. John Romas, chair of Health Sciences; Dr. David Bissonette, Family Consumer Science faculty member; and John Kind, Executive Director of the Mankato YMCA.

That evening, Taj Weekes and his band Adowa played to a sold-out house at the Halling Recital Hall of the Performing Arts Center at MNSU. Noted for "raising the level of songwriting within the idiom of reggae music," Weekes' music weaves social consciousness with a roots reggae groove, confronting such issues as global warming, Hurricane Katrina and the Darfur crisis.

On his final day in Mankato, Taj Weekes visited with the children in the Mankato YMCA's Discovery Program and Movement in Music class, which offers the children opportunities to stimulate creative thinking and playing through developmentally appropriate activities in a warm and caring environment. Taj remarked after, "We should be doing this all the time. The children had such fun and it was great spending some time with them in the midst of our busy touring schedule."

Taj Weekes and Adowa wish to thank the State of Minnesota and the Arts and Cultural Heritage Fund (ACHF) for their commitment to sharing world music with the community at large, focusing on both education and performance as well as providing opportunities for students to interact with professional artists.

The ACHF was designed to support "arts, arts education and arts access and to preserve Minnesota's history and cultural heritage," in order to continue building Minnesota's reputation as a center for arts, history, creativity and innovation, contributing to the long-term vitality of the state.

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