



**Media Contact:**

**Lauren Saul**

Marketing & Communications Manager

215.573.8537 | [lasaul@ac.upenn.edu](mailto:lasaul@ac.upenn.edu)

For Immediate Release

April 14, 2010

**The Annenberg Center for the Performing Arts presents  
two performances perfect for the whole family!**

***LA-based drum, music and dance ensemble STREET BEAT combines  
urban rhythms, hip-hop moves and break dance acrobatics  
into an explosive, high-energy performance***

***Grammy® nominated vocal ensemble  
Linda Tillery & the Cultural Heritage Choir share the rich traditions of  
African American Roots music***

(Philadelphia, April 14, 2010) — The Annenberg Center for the Performing Arts presents not one but two performances perfect for the whole family. First, the high-energy, LA-based drum, music and dance ensemble **STREET BEAT** combine urban rhythms, hip-hop moves and break dance acrobatics into one explosive performance on **Thursday, April 29, 2010 at 7:30 PM** at the **Annenberg Center for the Performing Arts**. Tickets for the performance start at just \$10. On **Friday, April 30, 2010 at 8:00 PM**, **Linda Tillery & The Cultural Heritage Choir**, a Grammy® nominated, five member-strong a cappella ensemble embark on an illuminating and highly spirited journey of African American history. The ensemble's mission is to help preserve and share the rich musical traditions of African American roots music with a repertoire that runs the gamut from spirituals, gospel, blues, jazz, funk, soul and hip-hop. Tickets for the performance are \$25 or \$40. For tickets or for more information, please visit **AnnenbergCenter.org** or call **215.898.3900**. Tickets can also be purchased in person at the Annenberg Center Box Office. Both artists are also featured main stage performers during the 26th annual Philadelphia International Children's Festival taking place at the Annenberg Center April 27-May 1, 2010.

**STREET BEAT**

STREET BEAT delivers an explosion of urban percussion that's accented by high-energy dance acrobatics and staged within a landscape of everyday-objects-turned-instruments, smattered graffiti, and bursts of theatrical lighting. This 10-member ensemble of drummers, musicians, and dancers led by Danish-born founder Ben Hansen perform what critics have called "... an urbanized journey through percussion," which brings the raw rhythmic originality of many popular street-style performances together in a dynamic and thrilling stage production."

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## **Linda Tillery & the Cultural Heritage Choir**

Performing together since 1992, Linda Tillery and the Cultural Heritage Choir's (CHC) first collaboration with veteran performers Taj Mahal and Eric Bibb entitled "Shakin' A Tailfeather," was nominated for a Grammy Award (1997) and their second collaborative effort "Hippity Hop", was awarded a Parents Choice Award (2000). In January 2010, CHC celebrated the release of their fourth recording titled *Still We Sing, Still We Rise*, featuring plantation romps like "Little Rosie", a funky remake of Bob Marley's "Get Up, Stand Up" and the satirical Cuban classic, "Si Dios Fuera Negro" (If God Were Black). CHC is Linda Tillery, Rhonda Benin, Elouise Burrell, Bryan Dyer and Simon Monserrat.

A native of San Francisco, Linda Tillery is a Grammy nominated vocalist, producer, arranger, speaker and self-taught ethno-musicologist. For the past 16 years she has dedicated her artistic life to the research, teaching, and performance of the great African American oral tradition of song, story, and stick - the ancestor of today's American popular song. In 1992, Tillery founded the Cultural Heritage Choir (CHC) to tell the story of slavery and its lingering effects from the point of view of the slaves for whom music was often their only voice. The group has expanded its repertoire to also include music from Africa, South America and the Caribbean.

At the age of 19, Linda Tillery became lead singer of the Berkeley based soul/rock band Loading Zone and later was a founding member of Bobby McFerrin's Voicestra. Her first solo recording, *Linda Tillery* (1977), won a Bammy (Bay Area Music Award) for "Best Independently Produced Album" and Tillery was twice named "Outstanding Female Vocalist" at the Bay Area Jazz Awards (1983-1984). She has shared the stage with Carlos Santana, Bonnie Raitt, Taj Mahal, Sheila E., Kelly Joe Phelps, Vicki Randle, Narada Michael Walden, Boz Skaggs, Ensemble Tartit, Regis Gizalvo, Eric Bibb, Pauline Oliveiros, Odetta, Richie Havens, Wilson Pickett, Arlo Guthrie, Boz Skaggs, Tom Scott, Danny Glover, Angela Davis, Alice Walker, ODC Dance Company, Tandy Beal Dance Company, Dimensions Dance Theater and Zaccho Dance Theater. She has appeared on more than 70 recordings.

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## **The Annenberg Center for the Performing Arts**

The University of Pennsylvania's Annenberg Center for the Performing Arts has been the region's leading multi-disciplinary performance venue for Theatre, Dance, Jazz, World Music,

New Music and children's programming since its inception in 1971. The Annenberg Center's curatorial vision emphasizes four primary values: artistic integrity, cultural diversity, curatorial balance and a willingness to take risks. By presenting world renowned and cutting edge artists and companies who express adventuresome perspectives on contemporary issues, timeless ideas and diverse cultures, the Annenberg Center promotes critical thinking and dialogue among its audiences, creating a uniquely rewarding arts experience.

The Annenberg Center has achieved national recognition for its outstanding Dance Celebration series (presented in partnership with Philadelphia's Dance Affiliates), touring theatre series, and for its superior offerings for children, including both its Student Discovery Series and the acclaimed 25-year-old Philadelphia International Children's Festival, the oldest festival of its kind in the United States. Through a generous grant from the Wallace Foundation, the Annenberg Center also showcases its commitment to local artists each year through its By Local series.

Throughout its history, the Annenberg Center has presented innovative and critically-acclaimed theatre productions with some of the biggest stars of stage and screen including Liv Ullmann and Sam Waterston in *A Doll's House*, *A Streetcar Named Desire* with Glenn Close, Jessica Tandy in Beckett's *Not I*, and Tennessee Williams' *Sweet Bird of Youth* with Irene Worth and Christopher Walken. Noteworthy Broadway producer and director Harold Prince (a University of Pennsylvania alum) and Joseph Papp staged many of their plays at the Annenberg Center before taking them to Broadway. As part of the Dance Celebration series, a broad range of world-class and emerging dancers and companies have appeared at the Annenberg Center each season including the Pilobolus Dance Theatre, Hubbard Street Dance Chicago, MOMIX, Parsons Dance Company, Martha Graham, Merce Cunningham, Paul Taylor and Alvin Ailey.

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## **STREET BEAT**

**Thursday, April 29 at 7:30 PM**

Zellerbach Theatre at the Annenberg Center for the Performing Arts

It's *STOMP* meets Blue Man Group when this L.A. based ensemble of drummers, musicians and dancers combine urban rhythms, hip-hop moves and break-dance acrobatics into an explosive high energy performance!

Tickets: \$10-\$20. For more information please call 215.898.3900 or visit [www.AnnenbergCenter.org](http://www.AnnenbergCenter.org).

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**LINDA TILLERY & THE CULTURAL HERITAGE CHOIR**

**Friday, April 30 at 8:00 PM**

Harold Prince Theatre at the Annenberg Center for the Performing Arts

Get your groove on with Linda Tillery and The Cultural Heritage Choir and embark on an illuminating and highly spirited journey of African American history. An original member of Bobby McFerrin's Voicestra, Tillery and her quartet of singers weave field shouts, spirituals, blues, gospel, work songs, R&B, funk and jazz together into a joyous cultural exploration that's perfect for the whole family.

Media support provided by WDAS FM and the *Philadelphia Tribune*.

Tickets: \$25 or \$40. For more information please call 215.898.3900 or visit [www.AnnenbergCenter.org](http://www.AnnenbergCenter.org).

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**For further press information or to set up interviews, please contact:**

Lauren Saul, Marketing and Communications Manager  
phone: 215.573.8537; email: [lasaul@ac.upenn.edu](mailto:lasaul@ac.upenn.edu)

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