



For Immediate Release

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**Cultural Odyssey in association with California Arts Council/Department of
 Justice Music Presenting Grant
 Presents IDRIS ACKAMOOR in
*ARTISTIC BEING: 2/4 58***

The California Arts Council in partnership with the Attorney General's Office is delighted to support a collaboration between Cultural Odyssey and musician **Idris Ackamoor**, to present free public concerts in San Francisco and throughout California. **These activities are supported, in part, with funds provided by the California Arts Council and the California Department of Justice's** 2003 antitrust settlement with major music-distribution companies and national retail chains. This prestigious award will allow Mr. Ackamoor and his special guest, musician **Frederick Harris**, to present "**ARTISTIC BEING: 2/4 58**", a concert combining jazz, world music, new age, and tap dance to geographically-diverse regions of California.

"**ARTISTIC BEING: 2/4 58**" will feature Idris Ackamoor, (alto sax, flutes, mbiras, tap dance, percussions, invented instruments) and special guest Fred Harris (electric & acoustic piano, drums) performing through many of the 58 counties of California (hence the name 2/4 58). The tour will focus on rural counties away from the major population centers; however, certain inner city communities located in the counties with large urban centers will also be serviced.

The performance repertoire will be comprised of compositions of jazz masters including John Coltrane, Miles Davis, Thelonious Monk, Charlie Parker, and many others. In addition there will be original compositions of Ackamoor and Harris as well as the new age

sounds of flutes, mbiras, bells, invented instruments, and other meditative and spiritual jazz sounds inspired and influence by Pharaoh Sanders, Alice Coltrane and John Coltrane.

The presentation is designed to be portable and self contained (sound system reinforcement provided) and accessible to a variety of rural and inner-city audiences. One of the intentions of the presentations will be to break down the traditional barriers that separate the audience and performer. This will include performing in unconventional locals including parks, street corners, street fairs, coffee houses, schools, galleries, and in some instances private homes. The performances will be offered free for any venue on a **first come first served basis** and there will be free attendance at all events. Presenters only need to go to www.culturalodyssey.org/artisticbeing and book a performance **for the period from March 15 – April 15, 2010.** Once the performance is booked Cultural Odyssey will send out all necessary marketing materials to insure that the presenter's audience is aware of the concert. There will be an extensive pre-marketing campaign to alert presenters to this exciting opportunity to offer free performances to their perspective audiences.

IDRIS ACKAMOR is a multi-instrumentalist, composer, actor, tap dancer, and director. Idris' primary instrument is the alto saxophone. An accomplished tap dancer, Idris' signature performance is his uncanny ability to combine tap dancing with playing his saxophone simultaneously. A musical milestone has been achieved for Idris with the just released 2 CD retrospective of his recorded output entitled, Music of Idris Ackamoor 1971-2004 on EM Records of Japan. In 2004 Idris released his third CD entitled, Homage to Cuba. In 1999 Idris released his second jazz CD entitled, Centurian and in 1998 he recorded and released his first CD entitled Portrait.

FREDERICK HARRIS is a concert and jazz pianist, music director, and educator in the San Francisco Bay Area. He has performed with Dizzy Gillespie, Billy Higgins, Charlie Haden, Albert Tootie Heath, Rebecca Parris, Kurt Elling, Chico Freeman, Billy Hart, and others, as well as Bay Area artists, including Miss Faye Carol, trumpeter Eddie Henderson, Eddie Marshall, and Dr. Margie Baker.

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