



Press Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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ENJOY MORE THAN 40 FREE PERFORMANCES ON HENNEPIN AVENUE ON JUNE 5

*Minneapolis MOSAIC and Twin Cities World Refugee Day bring a unique
arts & culture experience to Hennepin Avenue*

MINNEAPOLIS – For the eighth year, Minneapolis MOSAIC will celebrate the city’s diverse arts and culture with a FREE arts-packed event on June 5 from 1-10 p.m.

New to the 2010 celebration is Minneapolis MOSAIC’s partnership with Twin Cities World Refugee Day. The joint day-long event is an educational experience and “arts sampler” that will feature more than 40 acts performing at featured venues along the avenue, which include the Pantages Theatre, Hennepin Stages, and two outdoor stages just off Hennepin Avenue between 7th & 8th streets. Festival-goers of all ages will also delight in the sights and smells of local ethnic and Midtown Global Market food vendors.

From 1- 5 p.m., festival-goers can enjoy free performances from local refugee talents, including: *Hoang Anh Dance Group* (Vietnamese dancers), *Waddhanak of MN Cambodian Buddhist Society*, *Oromo Community of Minnesota Dancers*, *Russian Soul* (traditional Russian dance), *Hmong Qeej Players*, *Red Hot Peppers* (Hmong youth dancers), *Motion Crew* (Hmong youth breakdancers), *Karen Organization of Minnesota Dancers*, *Ibe Kaba* (Guinean spoken word artist), *Eh Taw Dwe* (Karen storyteller), *Tenzin Ngawang* (Tibetan musician), *Marian Hassan* (Somali children’s book author), *Nothando Zulu* (African storyteller), *Sansei Yonsei Kai* (Japanese dance group), and *Bhutanese children’s play*

From 6-10 p.m., the celebration will continue with an artistic and cultural performance line-up that includes: *MPLS TLNT SHW!* (Talent show finals featuring teens from 11 Minneapolis neighborhoods), *Katha Dance Theatre* and *Robert Robinson Music* (Official

Minneapolis MOSAIC Commission performance), *Johnson Family Band* (American Bluegrass music), *Tim O'Keefe/Batucada du Norte* (Brazil Parade music), *Mitch Walking Elk* (American Indian folk and rock music), *Mick LaBriola and Zion Tribe* (Reggae music), *Sergio Quiroz* (Aztec dance and music), *Eliecer Ramirez* (Salsa dance), *Lois Donnay* (Argentinean tango dance), *Yoji Senna* (Capoiera, Brazilian martial art and music), *Maia Maiden Conscious Spirit* (African and hip hop dance), *Nick Haas* (Jazz Flamenco fusion music), *Friendship Set to Music* (American Square Dance), *Cherolyn Fischer* (Pachamama Latin Band), *Paul Harding* (World music DJ from Radio K), *Jill Bernard* (Twin Cities Improv Festival), *Main Street School, Youth Performance Company*, *Zhan Xu* (Chinese acrobat), *CAAM Theater* (Chinese dance), and *Gao Hong* (Chinese pipa player).

Events celebrating the city's diversity and artistic talents continue city-wide throughout the year. A guide to all the Minneapolis MOSAIC events is available online at www.minneapolismosaic.com.

The Minneapolis MOSAIC website is also a great opportunity for arts, culture and humanities nonprofit organization to further promote events and projects to the public. Organizations may go online to the website to register their information and submit details about upcoming events.

The 2010 Minneapolis MOSAIC is chaired by Ana Luisa Fajer, Consul of Mexico. Consul Fajer volunteers her time, along with an executive committee who represent a wide range of artistic disciplines, businesses, communications, large and small cultural organizations and the tourism industry. Twin Cities World Refugee Day 2010 is chaired by representatives from five local refugee communities and organized by members of more than 20 refugee and immigrant service providers in the government and nonprofit sectors.

Minneapolis MOSAIC, a festival of arts celebrating cultural diversity, encourages the community to experience a wide range of cultural and artistic activities that make the city unique. MOSAIC is presented by the City of Minneapolis and funded by private sponsors, not tax payers. For more information, graphics and links please visit www.minneapolismosaic.com or call the Minneapolis MOSAIC hotline at (612) 655-1907.

Twin Cities World Refugee Day is a locally organized festival that celebrates the more than 100,000 refugees living in Minnesota and the diversity of cultures and experiences they bring to our community. Since 2001, people all over the world have celebrated World Refugee Day with events that honor the world's more than 15 million refugees and raise awareness about their continued plight. For more information about the event and refugees worldwide, visit www.tcworldrefugeeday.org.

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