Core Ensemble Theater Piece to Celebrate African American Women March 6 at Cal Poly

SAN LUIS OBISPO – The Core Ensemble, a touring company of chamber music theater, will perform “Ain’t I a Woman!” at 6 p.m. Wednesday, March 6, in the Pavilion of the Performing Arts Center at Cal Poly.

Chamber music theater is a unique performance format developed by The Core Ensemble that combines theatrical narrative with chamber music performance. In “Ain’t I a Woman!” actress-singer Shinanne Jackson portrays multiple characters while interacting with a musical trio of cello, piano and percussion.

The piece celebrates the lives of four powerful African American women: novelist and anthropologist Zora Neale Hurston, ex-slave and abolitionist Sojourner Truth, folk artist Clementine Hunter, and civil rights worker Fannie Lou Hamer.

The musical score is drawn from the heartfelt spirituals and blues of the Deep South, the urban vitality of the Jazz Age, and contemporary concert music by African Americans. “Ain’t I a Woman!” is a joyful exploration of the trials and triumphs of four passionate and accomplished women.

Since 1993 The Core Ensemble has toured the U.S. and Australia, England, Russia, the British Virgin Islands, and Ukraine. The Core Ensemble has received support from the National Endowment for the Arts, the State of Florida, the Florida Department of State’s Division of Cultural Affairs, The Palm Beach County Cultural Council, and the Aaron Copland Fund for Music.

Admission is free and open to the public. This event is co-sponsored by Cal Poly’s Black Faculty and Staff Association, Gender Equity Center, Multicultural Center, and the Women and Gender Studies and Ethnic Studies departments.

For more information, email Camille O’Bryant at cobryant@calpoly.edu or Llanee Anderson at lander16@calpoly.edu.

More information about the show is available at: http://www.coreensemble.com/aintiwoman/.

About The Core Ensemble

Founded in 1993, The Core Ensemble is acclaimed for the development of a new genre of chamber music theater works. It has a long history of commissioning and performing contemporary chamber music and is committed to reaching the widest possible range of audiences demographically and geographically in formats that include formal performance, informal lecture, and educational residency programs.

The Core Ensemble has commissioned many of today’s finest composers for new works featuring the unique instrumental combination of cello, piano and percussion. Many of these works have been funded by the most prestigious commissioning programs in the U.S. CD recordings have been released on the New World, Albany and Centaur labels.

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