



MEDIA CONTACT INFORMATION:

Treshea N. Wade
Manager, Marketing & Communications
August Wilson Center for African American Culture
Office 412.338.8734
Cell 412.716.8961
TWade@AugustWilsonCenter.org

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**August Wilson Center and Kente Arts Alliance present Jazz Icon
Pharoah Sanders**

Legendary saxophonist makes his first Pittsburgh appearance in nearly 30 years

"Pharoah is a man of large spiritual reservoir, always trying to reach out to truth. He's trying to allow his spiritual self to be his guide. He's dealing, among other things, in energy, in integrity, in essences." – John Coltrane

PITTSBURGH, PA—October 19, 2010—Witness a living legend when Pharoah Sanders lets loose on his tenor saxophone at the August Wilson Center for African American Culture Saturday, November 13 at 8 pm in a concert featuring his long-time collaborator, pianist William Henderson, as well as Pittsburgh jazz masters Dwayne Dolphin on bass and Roger Humphries on drums.

"The August Wilson Center is honored to partner with Kente Arts Alliance to give the Pittsburgh region this rare opportunity to experience the majesty of Pharoah Sanders," said André Kimo Stone Guess, President and CEO of The Center. "It's his first appearance here in 28 years and we know that jazz lovers will turnout in full force to welcome him."

Mensah Wali, Artistic Director of the Kente Arts Alliance, is a personal friend of Sanders who has known him since the mid-1960s.

"The music of Pharoah Sanders speaks to my spirituality. I relate to him as a reverend. People in his congregation relate to him as a reverend. In the context of jazz, he is our high priest. When you hear him, if you hear him the way members of our congregation hear him, he's speaking to our inner being," Wali said. "It is important for anyone that knows and recognizes the quality of his music to find their way to get into the house that night."

/next

Jazz Icon Pharoah Sanders Comes to The Center /Page 2

Born Ferrell Sanders in Little Rock, Arkansas, Pharoah began playing clubs there and further honed his sound in the jazz clubs of Oakland, CA where he moved right after high school.

Revered by jazz aficionados and musicians alike, Sanders possesses one of the most unique tenor sax sounds in all of jazz. He is one of the architects of free or avant-garde jazz and his groundbreaking recordings (at least nine) in the mid-1960s with saxophone god John Coltrane, marked a pivotal point in this most American of art forms. Sanders has etched his name in the pantheon of jazz alongside such musical icons as Charlie Parker, Sonny Rollins, Miles Davis, James Moody, Don Cherry and Sun Ra (who gave him the nickname Pharoah).

Between 1966 and 1971, he released several albums on the Impulse label, including *Tauhid* in 1966, *Karma* in 1969, and *Black Unity*, 1971. Six years later, came one of his most commercial efforts, *Love Will Find A Way* for Arista Records. In 1978, he recorded *Beyond a Dream (with Norman Connors); A Tribute to John Coltrane: Blues for Coltrane (with McCoy Tyner, D. Murray, C. McBee and R. Haynes)* in 1987. Sanders continued recording, releasing subsequent CDs, including *Message* in 1995, *Spirits* in 1998 and *The Creator Has A Master Plan* in 2003. All together, he's recorded over 30 albums as a leader and numerous others as a sideman.

He continues to tour, as well, thrilling jazz fans the world over.

Praise for Pharoah

"No one, prior to the Golden Age and beyond, has teased so many strange sounds out of a tenor saxophone than the Pharoah. Echo effects, warbles, ululations and splintered multi-sonics abounded." – Jack Berry, *Oregon Music News*

"It's a rare artist who can overcome the transitory nature of organized sound to make a song truly resonate within the human heart. Pharoah Sanders is one of the chosen few whose music still can affect listeners long after the coda has drifted off and the house lights have come up." – Peter Koht, *Good Times Santa Cruz*

"Few musicians, if any, can match it. The volume is so high, the tempo so fast and the tension so thick, Pharoah Sanders puts down his saxophone, screams and then returns to it for his sprawling improvisation." – Daniel King, *San Francisco Chronicle*

"...He remains totally committed to his music and plays each gig as if it were his last on earth." – Jack Massarik, *London Evening Standard*

Tickets for Pharoah Sanders are \$20, balcony; \$25, Orchestra rear; \$30 Orchestra front and can be purchased by visiting the Box Office at Theater Square, on-line at pgharts.org and culturaldistrict.org and by calling 412.456.6666.

ATTENTION MEDIA: Please contact Treshea N. Wade, Manager, Marketing & Communications, at 412.338.8734 or twade@AugustWilsonCenter.org for any interview requests.

/next

Jazz Icon Pharoah Sanders Comes to The Center /Page 3

This presentation of Pharoah Sanders is made possible with the generous support of the Allegheny Regional Asset District, the Buhl Fund and the Henry C. Frick Educational Fund of The Buhl Foundation, The Heinz Endowments, the Richard King Mellon Foundation, Multicultural Arts Initiative, Pennsylvania Council on the Arts, Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission, The Pittsburgh Foundation and individual donor contributions to The Center's Annual Fund.

###

About August Wilson Center for African American Culture

Named for Pulitzer Prize and Tony Award-winning playwright and Hill District native August Wilson, the August Wilson Center for African American Culture engages regional and national audiences in its mission of preserving, presenting, interpreting, celebrating and shaping the art, culture and history of African Americans in Western Pennsylvania and people of African descent throughout the world.

Located in Downtown Pittsburgh's Cultural District, the multidisciplinary August Wilson Center is reflective of all aspects of African American culture. The Center's striking, two-story, green building houses seven exhibition galleries, a 486-seat theater for performances in all disciplines, an education center, a café and gift shop, and multipurpose spaces for community programs and events. The Center is among a select few African American cultural institutions presenting visual and performing arts, the humanities and educational programs in a state-of-the-art venue.

The August Wilson Center – At The Center of It All!

More information is available on The Center's website at AugustWilsonCenter.org and by calling 412.258.2700.

About Kente Arts Alliance

Kente Arts Alliance is an African American arts organization whose mission is to present high-quality art of the African Diaspora. Heading into its sixth year, Kente's aim is to present art with a purpose by offering programs that entertain, inform and uplift the residents of underserved communities.

Goals of Kente Arts Alliance include increasing the visibility and awareness of African Diaspora art in an effort to preserve it; utilizing venues where people live in order to increase access and affordability; building sustainable arts programming to support revitalization in those communities and developing new audiences to expand patronage to the arts. More information is available by visiting www.kentearts.org.