



## **Office of the Mayor**

**Hon. Stephanie A. Miner, Mayor**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

DATE: February 28, 2013

CONTACT: Alexander Marion

Press Secretary (315) 448-8044

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# **CITY OF SYRACUSE TO HOST A BLACK HISTORY MONTH SHOWCASE**

*In Partnership with the Joan Hillsman Music Network, Inc., the City of Syracuse Will Present an Evening of Inspiring Entertainment Honoring the Journey of Black Americans*

SYRACUSE, N.Y. – The City of Syracuse is proud to announce its first Black History Month Showcase in partnership with the Joan Hillsman Music Network, Inc. The program will be on Thursday, February 28 in the Atrium of City Hall Commons at 203 East Washington Street. It will feature a variety of local performances including music, dance, and readings. The event will begin at 4:30 PM. The event is open to the press and the public.

Dr. Joan Hillsman, a renowned music educator, leads the Gospel Music Workshop of America choir in the City of Syracuse. She is a published author and has been a consultant for a variety of educational and music programs across the nation. She was a long time educator in the Washington, D.C. area.

“This is an excellent opportunity for the city to come together and reflect on the contributions of black America. I am excited because we are able to showcase the young students from my studio. They are excited as they are preparing their contributions. It is important for young people to know young people are young history makers; they are the present and the future,” said Dr. Hillsman.

Included in the performance will be a tribute to Duke Ellington, a presentation from Dr. Gwendolyn Lopez, and a variety of other performances.

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Additionally, Baye Muhammad, Commissioner of Parks, Recreation, and Youth Programs will present a proclamation honoring Black History Month on behalf of Mayor Stephanie A. Miner. Van B. Robinson, President of the Syracuse Common Council, will also offer greetings.

The event is being held in tribute to the 2013 theme of Black History Month: At the Crossroads of Freedom and Equality. Selections will specifically honor the accomplishments of the Emancipation Proclamation and the March on Washington. Mayor Miner's proclamation will honor the achievements of African Americans in the Central New York community.

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