

P R E S S R E L E A S E

August - 2008

**SAPPA (Scholarship Audition Performance Preparatory Academy)
First Annual Fundraiser
Wednesday, September 17, 2008
The California African American Museum Host Festivities
Including Music Symposium, Celebrity Performances and Awards**

WHAT:

Celebration 2008 is the culmination of years of dedication. Guided by the singular vision of musician, educator and founder of **SAPPA** (Scholarship Audition Performance Academy) Billy Mitchell, and will be the first major fundraiser to date. It aims not only to strengthen public awareness and community involvement.

Celebrity host **Pat Prescott** (*94.7 The Wave*), will host the symposium, including **Charles Dickerson** Director of the Southeast Symphony, Multi-Grammy nominated artist, **Patrice Rushen**, renown music educators **Dr. Bobby Rodriguez** and **Fernando Pullum**, Radio Personality, **Talaya Trigueros** and Opera Noir founder **Rosalynn Smith-Clark**.

The evening will include special guest performances by Jazz and Blues greats **Barbara Morrison**, **Keb'Mo'** and an array of top notch musicians, all coming together in support of the SAPPA mission.

In recognition of those who are using music and the arts to move our communities forward, awards will be given to; **Professor Iris Stevenson**, head of the music at Crenshaw High School, music educator, composer and recording artist, **Patrice Rushen** and **Alvaro Cortez**, the Beyond The Bell program (LAUSD)

WHEN&WHERE: *Wednesday, September 17, 2008 6:00 to 10:00 PM*

The California African American Museum
600 State Drive, Exposition Park, Los Angeles, CA 90037

ABOUT SAPPA:

In 2002, world-renowned musician **Billy Mitchell** founded the **Scholarship Audition Performance Preparatory Academy (SAPPA)** that provides music workshops for youngsters in underserved areas. These programs, supported by funding from organizations such as the Herb Alpert Foundation, Boeing Community Fund, Toyota, and the Levitt Foundation, give hundreds of youngsters the opportunity to learn basic music concepts and experience musical instruments. Their Audition Workshops prepare talented students for performing arts competitions and scholarship programs. SAPPA is a member of the Pasadena Arts Council (A nonprofit charity exempt from federal income tax under 501(C)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code)

FOR INFO: Please contact:

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