

January 2006–  
January 2007



MANNA  
HOUSE  
WORKSHOPS

Coming...

## Our 40th Anniversary

### Accomplishments In 2006

It's been an amazing year. We've renovated our façade (see photo right), and the interior of our building. Our students performed in a stupendous June recital. We also brought back our full-time **SummerTAM** program and produced the world premiere of Kenwood Denard's **Just Advance: A Street Suite**. Manna House introduced several new teachers and classes, including programs in African Dance and Drama. Despite our increasing expenses, we did not raise fees for lessons—they continue to be the lowest in the region. Our MEEE Concert Series brought some spectacular performers to East Harlem, including **Ethan Mann, Onaje Allan Gumbs, James Weidman, Tony Melone, and Valerie Capers**. For all the details of 2006, check out **Ms. D's notes** on page 2.

### Coming Events In 2007

#### MEEE Concert Series

Our Jazz concert series begins again in February, and continues the first Sunday of every month through June. We have an exceptional lineup of performers this year, see page 3 for the full schedule.

#### 40th Anniversary Benefit

We are planning an exciting gala event to celebrate our 40th anniversary. This event will take place in November of 2007 and will showcase special artists and Manna House's achievements over the years. The event is still in the planning stages—if you have ideas for this unique event, please call our office at 212-722-8223.



*Our newly restored façade*

### Watch *Best Kept Secret*

Check out our TV show on **Channel 56**, the **first Sunday of every month at 3pm**. See highlights of our students' and professional performers' work. Hosted by our founder Gloria DeNard.

### Dance Programs for Adults

In addition to our children's dance classes on Saturdays, we will be offering **Swing Dance with Etta Dixon** on select Sundays, and **Salsa Dance with Nydia Ocasio** on some Saturday evenings. Call us at 212-722-8223 for the schedule and to sign up.

### Register for SummerTAM 2007

It's not too early to sign your child (ages 7-14) up for our SummerTAM program. The program runs Monday through Friday, 9am-5pm, from July 9th through August 24th.

**INSIDE: Ms. D's Notes, MEEE Concert Schedule, Instructors and Classes, and more...**



*SummerTAM Guitar Ensemble, in concert August 2007*



# Ms. D's Notes

Where do I begin? This year has been wonderful! Let me tell you about **New York Cares**—a group of 50 or more volunteers came and painted all our halls from floor one to five. They also painted our main floor and our Mini Theatre. Everyone remarked, "It looks so bright in here." We are very grateful for their free service.

Did you notice the upper part of our façade? We have new pointed bricks and lavender fire escapes. With the help from the **Upper Manhattan Empowerment Zone** the bottom part was done and the new rug on our main floor was made possible with funds from the **Hyde and Watson Foundation**.

It is said, "You can't judge a book by its cover!" I have come to realize the meaning of this phrase more deeply as people have said to me, "I never knew what this place was." As "manna" continues to flow – we have upgraded the exterior and enrollment to our wonderful program is increasing.

If you came to our **Student Recital** on June 25th at the Heckscher Theater you experienced an exciting, rewarding display of hard work, good instruction and talent. Thanks to our teachers, our parents, our students, our technical staff and stage crew – each performer's work was shown to its best advantage. There is a video of the event available for \$20 and DVD for \$25. Please call us! Our appreciation to our volunteers at the ticket table Colleen Adolphus, Maria Perez and James Cicone. Also, thanks to our talented former dance instructor Denise Du'Maine, for recommending sound technician Elliot Lane to us. Most of all we thank those who conquered the challenge by selling all ten tickets and to the others who reported as many as possible – you all made this event a financial as well as artistic success.

The SummerTAM Program was exciting and we had a group of children that thoroughly enjoyed the experience. So much so that many of them cried at the final session. In addition to receiving training in guitar, recorder, chorus, drama, and dance, the children went on trips once a week. They visited the Cathedral Church of St. John the Divine, the Statue of Liberty, the Victorian Gardens, Lincoln Cen-

ter Out-of-Doors, and they attended an open door piano recital at Bryant Park. Many of the children are looking forward to returning next year.

On November 3, 4 and 5, we presented **Just Advance: a Street Suite**, which featured a live Jazz funk fusion band, twelve dancers and a terrific spoken word artist. The colorful musical took place in the **Poet's Den Theatre**, located on East 108th Street between First and Second Avenues. Everyone was astounded at the beauty of the theatre right in our own neighborhood to say nothing of the musical, which made our audience feel that they were on Broadway. The music was written by Kenwood Dennard, now a professor at the Berkeley of College of Music in Boston and a former student and teacher at Manna House. The story was conceptualized by Gloria DeNard and choreographed by Christal Brown and Zidana Bell. The spoken word was composed and delivered by the electrifying Scottie Davis. Perhaps you will recognize some of the members of the Jazz Funk/Fusion Band. They were: Nina Ott on keyboards, Al MacDowell on bass, Billy "Spaceman" Patterson on guitar and Kenwood Dennard, the composer, on drums. They are all internationally known musicians.

The dancers were auditioned from our intermediate dance department and other community organizations. The work was so suc-



Scottie Davis as Mr. Lookie in *Just Advance*

cessful that we are now seeking funds to have it tour local schools. The theme for **Just Advance** is: there are more choices than those in the street. Use your creative power to make better choices and Just Advance. Our young people of today need to hear this.

In December, 22 class members from Walt Whitman Middle School (Brooklyn) attended a music workshop at Manna House. I taught them about melody, harmony, and vocal tone production.

In 2007, we enter our 40th year of service to our community and the Greater New York area. Big plans are brewing. Peace, Love and Prosperity to us all!

– **Gloria DeNard**  
Executive Director



The *Just Advance* band, (L to R) Nina Ott, Billy "Spaceman" Patterson, Al MacDowell, and Kenwood Dennard

Starting in February,

Manna House Presents the



**MEEE**  
*Jazz*  
CONCERT SERIES

Music for Entertainment, Education and Enlightenment

Our annual MEEE Jazz Concert Series returns on February 4th at 4pm and continues on the first Sunday of each month from February-June. All concerts take place in our intimate Manna Mini Theater.

**Montego Joe February 4, 2007**

Concord recording artist Montego Joe brings his groundbreaking Afro-Cuban sound, along with his legendary ensemble, to our own Manna Mini Theater.

**Isaac Ben Ayala March 4, 2007**

Pianist Isaac Ben Ayala and his rhythm section will showcase compositions from his CD "Prayer For Humanity" and his piano virtuosity in this concert at Manna House. Isaac has performed with artists from Wynton Marsalis to Ray Charles and written music for Preservation Hall and numerous theater groups.

**Aziza April 1, 2007**

Pianist and vocalist Aziza invented "Jazzsoetry", a unique integration of jazz, soul, and poetry; she'll be performing works composed since her breakthrough collaboration with Natalie Cole.

**Hilliard Green May 6, 2007**

Bassist Hilliard Green brings his group The Jazz Expressions on May 6. Hilliard has recorded more than 40 CD's, under his own name and with many Jazz luminaries including Jimmy Scott.

**Brenda Fair June 3, 2007**

Vocalist Brenda Fair is a former student of Manna House and CUNY, now a professional jazz vocalist with her own trio. Brenda will perform her unique arrangements of classic jazz standards.

We'd love to see you at all these concerts. Call 212-722-8223 for tickets. \$10 Adults (in advance), \$15 at the door, \$7 Students/Seniors Seating is limited, call today!



Angelo Martinez & Mohamad Fayad at SummerTAM

# Manna House Class Offerings 2007

Group Dance Classes				
Course	Instructor	Ages	Day	Fee
Ballet	Mona Liza Afable	3-16	Sat	\$50/month for all
Jazz/Modern	Christal Brown	3-16	Sat	
Tap	Mariah Perry	3-16	Sat	
African	Christal Brown	3-16	Sat	
Other Group Classes				
Drama	Marcus Dargan	7-17	Sat	\$50
Sight Singing	Andrei Carriere	15-adult	Wed	\$60
Adult Vocal Ens	Andrei Carriere	15-adult	Wed	\$60
Junior Jazz Ens	John Robinson	7-17	Thr	\$50
Youth Chorus	Gloria DeNard	7-17	Fri	\$50
Chi Kung	Carlton Holmes	all	Wed	\$60
Private Music Lessons (half hour per wk)				
Piano	Tony Melone George Francois Carlton Holmes	all	all	\$50*
Voice	Gloria DeNard	all	all	\$50*
Guitar	Ethan Mann Andrei Carriere	all	Tue Wed Thr	\$50*
Woodwind	Enrique Fernandez	all	Tue	\$50*
Drums	Dion Parson	all	Mon Tue	\$50*
* Lessons are \$50/mo for children, \$70/mo for adults Monthly fees cover 4-5 classes				

**Manna House Administrative Staff**

- Gloria DeNard** Executive Director
- Brenda Fair** Administrative Coordinator
- Carlos Prescod** Administrative Assistant
- Maria Perez** Development Associate
- Tony Melone** Technical/Development
- Roy Villafane** Accountant

## In Memoriam

Manna House wishes to recognize some valuable persons who passed away in 2006. All our lives were enriched by their brilliance.

- Ed Bradley Ruth Brown Walter Booker**  
**Ozzie Davis Katherine Dunham Gregory Hines**  
**Shirley Horn Gerald Levert Anita O'Day**  
**Lou Rawles Rev. Leroy Ricksey Hilton Ruiz**  
**John Stubblefield Wally Swanson Luther Vandross**



Manna House Workshops, Inc.  
338 East 106th Street  
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## DVDs For Sale

Manna House is offering DVD's of our June 2006 **Student Recital**, our August 2006 **SummerTAM Performance**, and the November 2006 performance of **Just Advance: A Street Suite**. All DVD's are \$25. VHS Tapes and audio CD's are available for \$20. Call **212-722-8223** to order.

## Volunteers Wanted

Manna House is looking for people interested in assisting us in our work. We provide **internships** for college students, and we'll be happy to work with your school to insure you get course credit for your work. Adult volunteers will also be appreciated. We're looking for people with computer experience, phone experience, or expe-

rience working with children. Email Gloria at [mhw@mannahousejazz.org](mailto:mhw@mannahousejazz.org), or call 212-722-8223.

## Instruments For Kids

Manna House has acquired some new wind and brass instruments and is looking for enthusiastic young students to play in our **Junior Jazz Ensemble**. Students accepted to this program will be loaned an instrument for their own use, and will be required to attend weekly rehearsals for the jazz ensemble. If your child ages 7-17 has some experience on the **trumpet, saxophone, trombone, clarinet, flute, or electric bass**, please call us at 212-722-8223 to schedule an audition. Private lessons may be required if your child needs help reading music.

## Thanks

to the **Mr. Holland's Opus Foundation** for donating a saxophone, trombone, and bass guitar to our program. Thanks to the **Mary Flagler Cary Charitable Trust** and the **Bermuda Council on the Arts** for providing essential funding for *Just Advance*. Thanks to **Michael Simon** and **Conrad Webley** for taking beautiful photos our events. Thanks to **George Lambois** for producing the DVD of *Just Advance*, and to **Lovie Manuel**, our video technician. Thanks all the organizations and individuals who have contributed their time or finances to Manna House in 2006.

If you're looking for a reliable, professional contractor, check out the following companies that worked on our façade: **Top Builders** (brick work and fire escape), **Full Line Construction Co.** (new brick on lower front of façade), **Mike Awning & Sign Company** (new awning). Call us for their contact info.

## Season's Greetings

And best wishes for the New Year from everyone at **Manna House Workshops**



### Manna Messenger

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