

Hip Hop Goes Sacred, “Keys to the Inner Sanctum” Released Digitally



Hollywood, CA – When Courtney Branch seemingly exited the music business over ten years ago it was a move engineered to save his life. A multi-platinum, Grammy nominated record producer and one of the original behind-the-scenes pioneers of the West Coast hip hop music scene, his career accomplishments sparkled while his personal health was quickly on the demise. Given just a short time to live by his doctor, his health was failing miserably. A life of fast times, including drugs, round the clock studio hours and a diet of junk food, had proven to be a sad trade for a resume that boasted writing, producing and performing with artists the likes of LA Dream Team, Shanice Wilson, DJ Quik, AMG, Second II None, Boss and Living Colour. With a diagnosis that foretold ‘last days,’ Branch knew he had to change his life.



Doctah B. Sirius (far right) co-wrote “Dance for Me” and “You Had Me at Hello” on Ron Isley’s new CD “Mr. I.” Pictured left to right: co-writer, Jon Nettlesbey, Ron Isley, co-writer, Greg Curtis and co-writer, Doctah B. Sirius. Today, Branch is still forever the musical whiz. India Irie, George Clinton, Keb Mo, BB King, George Duke, El Debarge, Shalimar, Herb Alpert, Will Calhoun and most recently Ron Isley are just a sampling of the artists he works with. But after surviving his health challenge, he recreated himself and is now known and recognized as Doctah B Sirius.

As one the most sought after professionals in his field, Doctah B. Sirius combines ancient music tradition with a fresh approach and signature rhythms. After taking a much needed

health hiatus, his production work on India Arie's album Testimonies: Vol. 1, Life & Relationship was nominated for a Grammy and his career was jump-started and back on track, but this time, with a new attitude and from an innovative and wholistic perspective.

Doctah B is now a world renowned natural healer and teacher, having commandeered the multi-faceted realms of therapy under his wide scope of observation. A mind scientist, herbalist, motivational speaker, producer, composer and master percussionist, he is a modern day sage with tales of hope and inspiration for the coming new age. Having restored himself to health after studying herbal medicine, nutrition and metaphysics, he not only lives to tell about it, but to teach about it, through music, natural health, herbs, talk and the power of thought and the subconscious mind.

The recent digital release of "Keys to the Inner Sanctum" is an expressive testimony to the power of his sound therapy healing with a taste of soul. A production from him and sacred musician and master healer, Akahdahmah, a fifth generation Plant and Spirit Medicine Man, the duo teamed up to form Herban Shamen and create music that they deem "medicine music," that which induces the listener to travel to spaces deep within.

"Keys to the Inner Sanctum" is a beauty filled, mystical journey that expands spiritual awareness into a space of feeling one with God. Sacred instrumentation utilizing the djun-djun, el-bey, djembe, congas, Udu pots, mbira, bamboo flutes, harmonic Diamantine crystals, shakers, cow bells, cosmic keyboards, mystical guitars and Tibetan singing bowls magically carry the listener to a soothing place of beyond, where modern merges with tribal.

"Hip hop is a movement," clarifies Doctah B., "and that said, it is time that we, as the pioneers of this movement, begin to move the music beyond the madness. It is a must if we want to

live and elevate our lives. Fast living got me Grammy nominations and a pocket full of money, none of which was gonna serve me if I was no longer here. I was diagnosed with multiple systems failure and my physical life was shutting down. I had to come to the realization that it is only by connecting with a Higher Power that we become a higher power.”

“‘Keys to the Inner Sanctum’ is a formulation of harmonic remedies expressed through rhythm and word. These inspired rhythms are the movements of sacred sound currents given to us to transmit. In each recording session we were guided to arrange sound currents for aligning the body and mind with Divine Laws. The listener is transported to the inner sanctum where they experience the knowledge of our Oneness with the Source of life, revealing the path to health, wealth, joy and peace,” offers Akahdahmah.

“Keys to the Inner Sanctum” is an offering of eight celestial tracks that unlock the path to the All. “Breath,” “Convergence,” “Awakening,” and “Womb Portal,” are a sampling of the titles that serve as navigational guides into the mind, body and spirit connection.

“‘Keys to the Inner Sanctum’ is a divine gift of Universal Love,” adds Doctah B. “But,” he notes, “its still funky y’all!”

“Keys to the Inner Sanctum” can be heard and purchased at <http://www.cdbaby.com/cd/herbanshamen> and is available on iTunes, Amazon.com and wherever digital music is sold. For more information on Doctah B. Sirius, tune in at www.ElevationTime.com and for Akahdahmah tune in at <http://www.AkahHerbs.com> .

Blueprint-So Alive



Blueprint released his single “So Alive” today. In addition to “So Alive” there are remixes of the single by Budo, X:144, and Innerpartysystem available in the deluxe single on iTunes or limited edition red vinyl.

His LP Adventures in Counter-Culture is coming on Rhymesayers April 5th.

Download “So Alive” here:
<http://www.mediafire.com/?5mhq34imcotv82b>

Stream the remixes here:
<http://soundcloud.com/rhymesayers/sets/blueprint-so-alive-single-with/>

Legendary “Sound of Philadelphia” Pioneers Gamble & Huff Sign With William Morris For “All Areas” Representation



NEW YORK (March 2, 2011) — “Legendary ‘Sound of Philadelphia’ pioneers Kenneth Gamble and Leon Huff, one of the most prolific professional songwriting teams of all time,

have signed with William Morris Endeavor (WME) in all areas, including film, television, theater, books, and lecture appearances.

The announcement comes as the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame icons are marking the 40th anniversary of Philadelphia International Records, one of the most successful African-American-owned record labels of all time. In 2012 Gamble & Huff will celebrate the 50th anniversary of their historic songwriting partnership.

Songs Gamble & Huff have written and produced together include the hits "Back Stabbers," "Love Train," "For The Love Of Money," "If You Don't Know Me By Now," "Cowboys to Girls," "Don't Leave Me This Way," "Enjoy Yourself," "I'm Gonna Make You Love Me," "Only the Strong Survive," "Love Train," "Me & Mrs. Jones," and "TSOP" (better known as the "Soul Train" theme). Their songs comprise the most sampled R&B catalogue in the world, by artists such as Jay-Z, Usher, Cam'ron, Ja Rule, Jaheim, and Avant.

Having WME on their team marks the first time Gamble & Huff have enjoyed agency representation of this magnitude, despite having written and produced over 3,500 songs within 35 years, and amassing a catalogue that includes numerous pop #1 hits, R&B #1 hits, 100 gold and platinum records, Grammy winners and BMI songwriters' awards honorees.

"Our signing with William Morris is the first time in our career we have ever had an agent representing us," said Gamble & Huff. "We are confident and honored, and are expecting great things to happen with this historic representation, partnership and collaboration to honor our life story and 50-year musical legacy."

"It is an honor to be representing such prolific artists who have made an indelible mark on our culture and on global music history," added WME Board member Mark Itkin. "We look

forward to bringing the Gamble & Huff iconic body of work and brand into new businesses as we preserve their legacy.â€”

A hot independent R&B producing team in the late 1960s, Gamble & Huff co-founded Philadelphia International Records in 1971. Almost from the day PIR first opened, its artists began to dominate the charts. Within two years, Philadelphia International was the second-largest African-American-owned music company in America.

Gamble & Huff have recorded and collaborated with a galaxy of stars from the pop, rock, soul and jazz universes, including Michael Jackson and the Jacksons, Elton John, Lou Rawls, Teddy Pendergrass, Patti LaBelle, Harold Melvin and the Blue Notes, Aretha Franklin, the Spinners, the Stylistics, the Delfonics, Dusty Springfield, Jerry Butler, Wilson Pickett, Labelle, Archie Bell & the Drells, the Soul Survivors, Laura Nyro, the Trammps, McFadden & Whitehead, Phyllis Hyman and Grover Washington Jr.

Their songs also have been covered by a myriad of artists including Elvis Presley, the Rolling Stones, Bette Midler, Simply Red, Michael Buble, Johnny Mathis, Lesley Gore, Donny & Marie, Thelma Houston, the Brand New Heavies and recently, Rod Stewart, who sings four Gamble & Huff classics on his 2009 album, *Soulbook*.

Featured prominently in television programs (“The Apprentice,” “Cold Case”), films (“The Nutty Professor”) and advertising spots (Verizon, Chevrolet, Coors Light, Old Navy, The Gap, Office Max) for more than 30 years, Gamble & Huff’s songs have entered the musical DNA of contemporary culture. In 2005, Gamble & Huff appeared on *American Idol* in a show devoted entirely to their music. It is estimated that one of their songs is played on the radio somewhere in the world every 13.5 minutes.

Gamble & Huff have been the recipients of numerous accolades

for their extensive body of work. They are enshrined in five music Halls of Fame, including the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame, the National Academy of Songwriters' Hall of Fame, the Dance Music Hall of Fame, and the R&B Hall of Fame. They have been honored by National Academy of Recording Arts and Sciences with the Trustees Award as producers and songwriters, and for their contribution to the entire fabric of popular music.

In 2010, Gamble & Huff were presented honorary doctor of music degrees – their first together in a distinguished partnership that is nearing its 50th anniversary – at Berklee College of Music's Commencement. A few months later, Gamble & Huff became the first people in Philadelphia history to be so honored on Broad Street with the renaming of a historic section of the city's major artery as Gamble & Huff Walk.

Zion I & The Grouch – “Rockit Man” Feat. Silk-E



The Song:

Today, West Coast trifecta Zion I & The Grouch drop the latest single from their forthcoming album, *Heroes in the Healing of the Nation*, “Rockit Man” which features Bay Area singer/rapper Silk-E. This album is this super group's sophomore album and follow-up to 2006's critically acclaimed *Heroes in the City of Dope*, and will be released on March 22, 2011.

“‘Rockit Man’ is loosely based on maturation and ascension as a person,” explains The Grouch. Zumbi further explains, “This

song is about struggling to shake old fears and misgivings. Once we let them go, we make way for the next level of transcendence. This is what a Rockit Man does... daily."

"Rockit Man" is now available for free download at ZioniAndTheGrouch.com and the full album is available for pre-order. Fans who pre-order the full album from the site will receive a free instant download of the album track "Drop It On the 1" and the bonus song "Heroes."

Finally, the trio have announced additional tour dates for their Healing of the Nation Tour, which kicks off at the Fillmore in San Francisco on March 19, with Blu, One Be Lo, and The Jazz Mafia's Shotgun Wedding Quintet. For the tour, Zion I & The Grouch have partnered up with different community organizations in every city and will be donating 100% of all ticketing fees sold through ZioniAndTheGrouch.com to these organizations.

Download "Rockit Man" here:
<http://zioniandthegrouch.com/download/>

Alternate link: <http://bit.ly/fRToA7>

For a full list of organizations, go to ZioniAndTheGrouch.com

Zion I & The Grouch Healing Of The Nation Tour Dates:

* w/ Blu

% w/ The Jacka

w/ The Shotgun Wedding Quintet (Jazz Mafia)

3/16/11 Austin, TX @ Mohawk (SXSW)

3/18/11 Austin, TX @ Beauty Bar (SXSW)

3/19/11 San Francisco, CA @ The Fillmore * % #

3/20/11 Fresno, CA @ Fulton 55 * #

3/21/11 Sacramento, CA @ Ace of Spades * #

3/22/11 Petaluma, CA @ Phoenix Theater * #

3/23/11 Arcata, CA @ Humbrew * #

3/24/11 Eugene OR @ McDonald Theatre * #

3/25/11 Portland, OR @ BRANX * #
3/26/11 Seattle, WA @ Nectars * #
3/27/11 Missoula, MT @ Palace Lounge * #
3/29/11 Park City @ Star Bar * #
3/30/11 Aspen, CO @ The Belly Up * #
3/31/11 Ft Collins, CO @ Aggie Theater * #
4/01/11 Boulder @ Fox Theater * #
4/02/11 Denver, CO @ City Hall * #
4/15/11 Madison, WI @ Majestic #
4/17/11 Chicago, IL @ Abbey Theater #
4/18/11 Cleveland, OH @ Grog Shop #
4/19/11 Syracuse, NY @ Westcott Theater \$ #
4/20/11 Burlington, VT @ Higher Ground #
4/21/11 Boston, MA @ Middle East Club #
4/22/11 Brooklyn, NY @ Knitting Factory #
4/23/11 Baltimore, MD @ The Quarter #
4/24/11 Philadelphia, PA @ The Blockley Poorhouse #
4/25/11 Tempe, AZ @ The Club House #
4/26/11 Los Angeles, CA @ El Rey Theatre #
4/27/11 San Diego, CA @ House of Blues #
4/28/11 San Luis Obispo, CA @ SLO Brewing Co. #
4/29/11 Santa Clara, CA @ The Avalon #
4/30/11 Reno, NV @ Grand Theatre #
5/01/11 Santa Barbara, CA @ Velvet Jones