





THE PRESIDENT AND MRS. BUSH

*welcome you to*

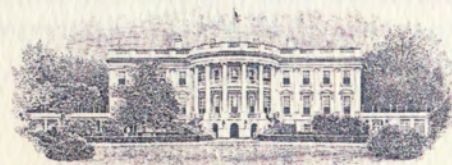
THE WHITE HOUSE

*in honor of*

ARTHUR MITCHELL

*and*

DANCE THEATRE OF HARLEM



*Monday, February 6, 2006*



ARTHUR MITCHELL  
*Founder and Artistic Director*

Arthur Mitchell, artistic director of Dance Theatre of Harlem, was born in New York City on March 27, 1934. He began his dance training at New York City's High School of the Performing Arts and continued at the School of American Ballet. When he joined the New York City Ballet in 1955, he was the first African-American male to become a permanent member of a major ballet company. There he quickly became Principal Dancer. The death of the Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., inspired Mr. Mitchell to provide children—especially those living in Harlem—with the opportunity to study dance. He began teaching classes in a remodeled garage. In 1969 Mr. Mitchell and Karel Shook, his mentor and ballet instructor, founded Dance Theatre of Harlem.

DANCE THEATRE OF HARLEM

Dance Theatre of Harlem encompasses a dance company, a leading arts education center, and a national and international education and outreach program. Each component of DTH maintains a solid commitment to enriching the lives of young people and adults through the arts. The DTH School offers training to more than 1,000 young people annually through professional and pre-professional dance programs, as well as a community program open to any child who wants to study dance. Dancing Through Barriers, DTH's education and outreach program, takes arts education to young people all over the world. Now in its fourth decade, DTH has grown into a multi-cultural dance institution with an extraordinary legacy of providing opportunities for creative expression and artistic excellence.

PROGRAM

*Performances by*

Dance Theatre of Harlem School  
with guest artists:

Xzavier Cave

Kip Sturm

Rasta Thomas

Donald Williams

*Featuring:*

Harolyn Blackwell

The Reverend Al Green

Audra McDonald

LeAnn Rimes



## HAROLYN BLACKWELL

*Soprano*

Soprano Harolyn Blackwell performs internationally with leading opera companies and music festivals including the Metropolitan Opera, Glyndebourne Festival, Lyric Opera of Chicago, San Francisco Opera, and Aix-en-Provence Festival. Additionally, she is a guest of the most prestigious orchestras in the world and has worked under such conductors as Blomstedt, Conlon, von Dohnanyi, Dutoit, Levine, Litton, Masur, Previn, and Rattle. She also starred on Broadway in the revivals of Bernstein's *Candide* and *West Side Story*. Her recordings include *Porgy and Bess*; the Broadway cast album of *Candide*; two solo albums: *Strange Hurt* and *Blackwell Sings Bernstein*; and *Sondheim: A Celebration at Carnegie Hall*.

## THE REVEREND AL GREEN

*Soul and Gospel Singer*

Al Green started singing professionally at age nine when he and his brothers formed a gospel quartet. Later, a pop group Mr. Green formed with high school friends recorded a single, "Back Up Train," that went to number five on the national R&B chart. In 1969 Mr. Green was persuaded by Willie Mitchell, renowned bandleader, arranger and trumpeter, to move to Memphis. There Mr. Green and Mr. Mitchell collaborated on eight albums that sold over 20 million copies worldwide. Since 1976 Mr. Green has concentrated on gospel music, recording numerous albums. And since 1979, the Reverend Al Green has led his Baptist congregation in Memphis. Now his album *Everything's OK*, released under the name "The Reverend Al Green," returns to and updates the signature sound that he and Mr. Mitchell pioneered: sensuous layers of strings and horns that showcase Mr. Green's remarkable voice. And with this album Al Green has come full circle, embracing his world inside and outside the church.

## AUDRA McDONALD

*Soprano*

Earning an unprecedented three Tony Awards before the age of 30 for *Carousel*, *Master Class*, and *Ragtime* and later for *A Raisin in the Sun*, singer and actress Audra McDonald blends a luscious, classically-trained soprano with a gift for dramatic truth-telling. Ms. McDonald sings regularly with all the major American orchestras, including the Boston Symphony, the Los Angeles Philharmonic, the New York Philharmonic, the Philadelphia Orchestra, and the San Francisco Symphony. She is a returning guest artist at London's BBC Proms, the London Symphony Orchestra, the Berlin Philharmonic, and the Chatelet Theatre in Paris. Ms. McDonald won an Emmy nomination for her performance in HBO's *Wit*, opposite Emma Thompson. Her solo albums, *Way Back to Paradise*, *How Glory Goes* and *Happy Songs*, containing both popular standards and contemporary music theater numbers, have won a wide audience.

## LEANN RIMES

*Country Music Artist*

LeAnn Rimes has made the rare transition from child prodigy to seasoned artist. She has sold more than 37 million records and received numerous awards. Her debut album *Blue* made her a star at thirteen, selling more than eight million copies and earning her two Grammys. Ms. Rimes' *You Light Up My Life: Inspirational Songs* made history, reaching the top in three Billboard categories – country, pop, and contemporary Christian. Her recording "How Do I Live" was number one for eight months and spent more than two hundred weeks on the country charts. Ms. Rimes, who spends countless hours helping children and veterans, lives in Nashville with her husband Dean Sheremet, with whom she has co-authored the children's books *Jag* and *Jag's Best Friend*.



## WETA

For nearly thirty years, public television station WETA in Washington, D.C., has produced a series of performance specials at the White House for national broadcast on the Public Broadcasting Service (PBS). Beginning with an historic recital by the legendary pianist Vladimir Horowitz in the East Room in 1978, the series has presented the very best of the American performing arts in a wide variety of artistic disciplines during five successive presidencies. From the Broadway musical to opera, country and western, gospel, ballet, jazz and more, the extraordinary richness of American music and dance has been featured in the series. The broadcast of *In Performance at the White House: Dance Theatre of Harlem* will be broadcast on PBS stations nationwide in the summer of 2006.

## CATHERINE B. REYNOLDS FOUNDATION

The Catherine B. Reynolds Foundation is the major benefactor of Dance Theatre of Harlem. The mission of the Catherine B. Reynolds Foundation is profound in its implications, yet simply stated: to help educate young people, to inspire them to believe in their power to make a difference as individuals, and to motivate them to reach their greatest potential as citizens and productive members of society. Established and chaired by education finance entrepreneur Catherine Reynolds, it is one of the largest and most active foundations in the nation. Mrs. Reynolds has recently been recognized by *Business Week* as one of the 50 most philanthropic living Americans and is the first self-made woman ever named to that list.