



GASTON COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY

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LOCAL ORGANIZATIONS ANNOUNCE *SOUTHERN VOICES...PROJECT*

The Gaston Arts Council, Gaston County Public Library, Gaston Choral Society, Gaston School of the Arts, Incorporated, and Friends of the Gaston County Public Library are pleased to announce a multi-part artists' residency project serving Greater Gaston adults and youth.

Southern Voices: Black, White and Blues, featuring musician/educator Scott Ainslie and performance poet Glenis Redmond, will offer writing, choral, and guitar workshop opportunities, a poetry performance, and a full performance of the acclaimed production, ***Southern Voices: Black, White and Blues*** March 10 through March 13, 2008.

This project is funded by an *Arts and Audiences* grant from the North Carolina Arts Council, an agency funded by the State of North Carolina and the National Endowment for the Arts, which believes in great art for a great nation. In-kind support of the project has been provided by local sponsors.

All events are free and open to the public. Workshop opportunities require advance reservations. For more information about the project events, please call 704-868-2164 / Dial 4.

The events being presented through this project are:

Monday, March 10, 2008

6:30 to 8:30 p.m. Our Voices: Writing from Personal Experience - a poetry writing workshop presented by **Glenis Redmond**.

Glenis Redmond believes that poetry is all the pale silences of the world gathering in the heart's deep well. By listening to and reading poetry, each person can open the door that leads top an internal landscape; by writing poetry, each person can discover hidden jewels. During this workshop, participants will be empowered and guided to create their own non-linear definitions of poetry and expand their view of poetry as an art form.

Auditorium – Gaston County Public Library

1555 East Garrison Boulevard – Gastonia, North Carolina

Free literary workshop for adults and older students (high school and college). Limit 25 participants. Reservations required; reservations will be accepted on a first-requested basis.

For reservations or more information, please call **704-868-2164 / Dial 4**.

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Monday, March 10, 2008

6:30 to 8:30 p.m. African Roots of the American Voice: Gospel and Blues - a choral workshop presented by **Scott Ainslie**.

This workshop is part history, part philosophy, and a lot of vocalese! Working with singers from throughout the Greater Gaston area, Ainslie will explore the backgrounds of divergent vocal styles, with special emphasis on the cultural and historical aspects of European and West African culture that inform contemporary vocal styles in America.

Chapel – Main Level

Unity Place

201 West Franklin Boulevard – Gastonia, North Carolina

Free vocal workshop for adults and older youth (high school and college). Limit 100 participants. Reservations required; reservations will be accepted on a first-requested basis.

For reservations or more information, please call **704-868-2164 / Dial 4**.

Participants in this workshop will also perform in the March 13 performance of ***Southern Voices: Black, White and Blues***

Tuesday, March 11, 2008

6:30 to 8:30 p.m. Blues and Slide Guitar: Master Class and Workshop

Presented by blues musician / recording artist / music historian / educator / author **Scott Ainslie**

In this guitar master class and hands-on workshop, master musician Scott Ainslie will briefly explore the history of Blues music, from its African roots to contemporary performance, then share a variety of Blues guitar techniques.

Dance Studio – Second Floor

Unity Place

201 West Franklin Boulevard – Gastonia, North Carolina

Free hands-on workshop for adults and older youth (Grade 6 through 12).

Limit 35 participants. Reservations required; reservations will be accepted on a first-requested basis.

For reservations or more information, please call **704-866-8882**.

Selected participants in this workshop may also perform before and after the March 13 performance of ***Southern Voices: Black, White and Blues***

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Tuesday, March 11, 2008

7:00 p.m.

Soaring with Words: A Poetry Performance with Glenis Redmond

Glenis Redmond, an acclaimed writer, educator, and performer, presents her original poetry in dynamic performances that bring the printed word from the page to dance, sing, weep, and laugh. Glenis tells stories with her poetry – stories from her life, her family, her African American heritage, and her sensitive observations of the world – that inspire audiences of all ages. Through her performances, she empowers her audiences to lift up their own heroes and sheroes, to know themselves and their origins, and to find their own inspirations and stories.

Auditorium – Gaston County Public Library

1555 East Garrison Boulevard – Gastonia, North Carolina

Free public performance for adults and older students. Seating is on a first-come basis.

Information: **704-868-2164 / Dial 4.**

Thursday, March 13, 2008

7:00 p.m.

Southern Voices: Black, White and Blues – a live performance with Scott Ainslie, Glenis Redmond, and local artists.

In this haunting yet uplifting musical and poetic tour of the South, Ainslie and Redmond explore a common ground where black and white have mingled race, culture and heritage to create a unique land where the past, present and future echo in everyday life.

This performance will include appearances by local participants in the March 10 choral workshop and March 11 guitar workshop.

Sanctuary – First Presbyterian Church

1621 East Garrison Boulevard – Gastonia, North Carolina

Free public event for adults and school-age children.

Immediately following this performance, the Friends of the Gaston County Public Library will host a free reception for performers and audience members.

Information: **704-868-2164 / Dial 4.**

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