



UNIVERSITY OF SAINT JOSEPH

CONNECTICUT

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Battle, Dukes, and Battle – Three Singers to Perform Benefit Concert at University of Saint Joseph

WEST HARTFORD, Conn. (October 2, 2013) – The University of Saint Joseph will host *Battle, Dukes, and Battle*, a vocal concert of classical, spiritual, gospel, and contemporary music to benefit the Keith Washington Initiative on Saturday, October 26, 2013. The concert will take place at 4:00 p.m. in the Connor Chapel on the University's main campus located at 1678 Asylum Avenue West Hartford, CT. There will be a free will offering to support the Initiative. Attendees are invited to bring a photo of their father for a communal tribute during the concert.

Battle, Dukes, and Battle will feature the talents of three local artists: Stewart Battle, Christopher Dukes, and Stanley Battle. Stewart Battle, J.D., a baritone and resident of Ellington, Conn., has performed with numerous groups across the United States and abroad, including the Metropolitan Opera, The Washington Opera Company, Hartford Chorale, Opera Ebony of New York, and Spirituals in Concert at Carnegie Hall (directed by James Levine). He was the winner of Junior League fellowship and a semi-finalist in the regional Metropolitan Opera Competition.

Christopher Dukes, a native of West Haven, Conn., is a saxophone player and vocalist. He has performed with the City Singers and the Hartford Chorale. His music has been celebrated in Germany, England, Ireland, France, Wales, and Puerto Rico. Dukes currently works as the director for the Office of Student Conduct at Central Connecticut State University.

Stanley Battle, Ph.D., was recently named director of the new master's degree in Social Work program at the University of Saint Joseph. He studied voice at the University of Minnesota School of Music and the Hartford Camerata Conservatory. In addition to his extensive academic career, Battle has performed throughout the U.S., including stints with the Anvil Choir at St. Mark A.M.E. Church and the Zelazo Performing Arts Center at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee.

The concert will benefit the Keith Washington Initiative, which works to help children succeed academically and socially while preparing them to lead productive lives. Named in honor of Keith Washington, a Windsor, Conn. resident who was shot and killed in Hartford in 2011, the

Initiative creates activities for the children designed to improve academic achievement and to close the achievement gap.

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The University of Saint Joseph (USJ) offers a wide range of graduate, undergraduate, and certificate programs that combine a professional and liberal arts education with a focus on service. Coeducational graduate master's and doctoral degree programs are taught on the University's two campuses in West Hartford and Hartford, Connecticut; at off-campus locations throughout the state; and online. Undergraduate programs for women and for coeducational adult students take place on our beautiful suburban campus and include more than 22 majors and six pre-professional programs, each of which provides personal attention in a caring environment. Founded in 1932 by the Sisters of Mercy, the University of Saint Joseph welcomes students from diverse backgrounds and religious traditions. To learn more, view our website at www.usj.edu.

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