

## **ACCLAIMED A CAPPELLA SEXTET RETURNS TO ANN ARBOR WITH A NEW ALBUM, *FEELS GOOD***

### **TAKE 6 PERFORMANCE CONCLUDES REV. DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. DAY ACTIVITIES ON U-M CAMPUS**

ANN ARBOR, MI (January 5, 2005) – The award-winning Christian sextet **Take 6** performs on **Monday, January 16 at 7:30 p.m.**, at **Hill Auditorium** (825 North University Avenue) as part of the University of Michigan celebration of Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day. Take 6 has built a signature sound that draws from gospel, jazz, doo-wop, R&B, 1960s soul, and hip-hop. Paving the way for contemporary R&B vocal groups, Take 6 has had a profound impact on many of today's artists, including Boyz II Men and Coming of Age. The performance will feature selections from the group's upcoming new release, *Feels Good*, due out in the U.S March 21. The concert is presented by the **University Musical Society**.

For performance tickets or additional information, contact the University Musical Society at **734-764-2538** or online at [www.ums.org](http://www.ums.org). Tickets may also be purchased in person at the League Ticket Office (911 North University Avenue). ***Ticket Office hours are Monday-Friday 9 am to 5 pm, and Saturday 10 am to 1 pm.***

**Take 6** has legendary beginnings. The group was initially conceived in 1980 by Claude McKnight as a barbershop quartet, the Gentleman's Estate Quartet at Oakwood College, a small Christian school, and began performing around campus. A few months later, Mark Kibble heard the group practicing in the bathroom and decided to add a fifth part. He performed with them that night. Shortly after, Mervyn Warren joined, making the group a sextet, and they took on the name Sounds of Distinction, and later, Alliance.

A further change of members brought Cedric Dent, David Thomas, and Alvin Chea into the group, and in 1987 that lineup of singers arranged a showcase for 30 gospel record company representatives at a

Christian bookstore in Nashville. However, only about ten people turned up, including one uninvited guest, Jim Ed Norman of Warner Brothers. He had heard a cassette demo by the group and was curious to meet them. He signed the group to Warner Brothers that very day, also arranging a separate distribution deal with Reunion Records to get their album into Christian book and record stores. This lineup remained until 1991, when Warren left to pursue individual interests. Take 6 called up Kibble's younger brother Joey to fill in, and the rest is history.

Take 6 has more Grammy Awards to its credit (eight) than any other vocal group, and the awards cut across the soul gospel, jazz, and R&B categories. They have released a dozen recordings since their 1988 label debut. Three of those recordings have achieved gold status, and one has reached platinum. On March 21, 2006, the ensemble will release their first album in more than four years. Titled, *Feels Good*, the album marks the group's change to an independent label.

**Alvin Chea** has been a professional "bass-cat" for 16 years. A pioneer of the bass-vocal "walking" style in a *cappella* singing, Chea listened to Marcus Miller, Jimmy Haslip, and Ron Carter mostly in an attempt to mimic what they were doing. He lives in West Hills, California, where he is considered to be an "A" list session singer in the Los Angeles area.

**Cedric Carl Dent**, a native of Detroit, Michigan, began private piano lessons at age six and the study of music theory at age 14. He received his bachelor's degree from the University of Michigan and continued on to receive his master's from the University of Alabama and his doctorate from the University of Maryland. In 2004, Dent was appointed as a Geier Visiting Professor at Middle Tennessee State University where he holds a joint appointment between the College of Liberal Arts and the College of Mass Communication.

In 1999, he hosted a music education series for children entitled "Music to My Ears" for National Public Television in Nashville, TN. His research interests include the historical and harmonic development of black gospel music, and vocal jazz group arranging and performance. His doctoral dissertation traces the harmonic development of the black religious quartet singing tradition. Recognition for Dent's creative

endeavors includes a Grammy nomination for Best Instrumental Arrangement Accompanying a Vocal in 1991, a Dove nomination for Urban Recorded Song of the Year in 1999, and Contemporary *A Cappella* Recording Award nomination for Best Religious Song in 1999.

**Joey Kibble** was born in Buffalo, NY in May 1971. He spent most of his life in and around the South until he left home to finish his last two years of high school at Pine Forge Academy in Pennsylvania. After attending Oakwood College in Huntsville, Alabama, he joined Take 6 in 1991 and has been singing with them since. Joey feels called to a seven-part ministry made known in songwriting, physical fitness, vocal discipline, speaking, writing books, marriage, and leadership. He recently returned to school to finish his undergraduate studies at Oakwood College's adult program.

Born in April 1964, **Mark Kibble**, Joey Kibble's older brother, began his life-long relationship with music at an early age. His father was the pastor of a very musical church. He continued singing throughout high school and college. In addition to his duties singing, Kibble co-owns Vertical Sound Studio with his brother. Take 6 records there on occasion, as do his side projects. He also takes on students for vocal coaching, most notably the pop group the Backstreet Boys.

**Claude McKnight** was born in October 1962 in Brooklyn, NY. His earliest musical influences came from his grandfather, who was the choir director at his church. His earliest musical memories are of going to rehearsal with his mom every Friday night. He was able to learn parts and harmonize and see how his grandfather was able to lead a group of people. In high school, McKnight played the trombone in the band and basketball for his school's team.

Upon graduation, he had to make the choice of going to school to play ball or to pursue music. Interestingly enough, he chose to go to Oakwood College, which was not a school known for either its instrumental program or its athletics. One of the first things he did during his freshman year was to put together a freshman quartet, singing mostly barbershop style harmonies. In addition to starting Take 6, he has been involved in producing, writing, and doing voiceover work, having recently signed with ICM.

**David Thomas** was born in Brooklyn, New York. A few years later, Thomas moved to Huntsville, Alabama with his family when his dad accepted a job with Oakwood College. While attending the University of Alabama, where he was studying to become a chemical engineer, he was asked to join Alliance, which soon became Take 6. He is an accomplished musician and producer/songwriter and has produced records for many artists from Hayden to the Backstreet Boys.

### **Quick Facts**

**Co-presented with:** U-M Office of Academic Multicultural Initiatives

**Media Partners:** WEMU 89.1 FM, Michigan Radio/Michigan Television, Metro Times, Observer & Eccentric Newspapers, and Michigan Chronicle/Front Page

**Take 6 previous UMS appearances:** This is the second UMS performance for Take 6. UMS debut was in Jan 2000.

**More Information:** [www.take6.com](http://www.take6.com)

## **TAKE 6**

**Monday, January 16, 7:30 p.m. [NOTE START TIME]**  
**Hill Auditorium** (825 North University Avenue, Ann Arbor)

**Tickets: \$10-\$30**

Co-presented by **U-M Office of Academic Multicultural Initiatives**  
Media Partners **WEMU 89.1 FM, Michigan Radio/Michigan Television, Metro Times, Observer & Eccentric Newspapers, and Michigan Chronicle/Front Page**

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### **UMS Ticket Office**

**734-764-2538**

Outside the 734 area code, call toll-free **800-221-1229**.

**(These numbers should be published.)**

**<http://www.ums.org>**

**Mail or fax orders to:**

University Musical Society  
Burton Memorial Tower  
Ann Arbor, MI, 48109-3100

Fax: 734-647-1171

Special discounts for groups! Call 734-763-3100

**Press information/Photos: Contact Susan Bozell, 734-764-6833 [DO NOT PUBLISH]**

*Television crews and still-photographers are welcome to cover UMS events; however, please provide 48 hours notice so that we may secure permission from the artists and alert the production staff. Please contact Susan Bozell at 734-764-6833 to arrange media coverage.*

**Media Inquiries / Further Information:**

Susan Bozell or Sara Billmann, University Musical Society

734-764-6833 or 734-763-0611

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