



Building Community Through Rhythm

PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

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11th Annual World Rhythm Festival to be Held April 25-27, 2003

Free annual event expected to draw more than 10,000 to Seattle Center

SEATTLE — April 14, 2003 — The Seattle World Percussion Society will present the 11th annual World Rhythm Festival at the Seattle Center on April 25 to 27, 2003. The event will feature more than 50 workshops in drum and dance, 20 live performances, an International Marketplace, the Great Northwest Drum Circle with Arthur Hull, and an Opening Ceremony on Friday. The festival is the largest free percussion festival in the world.

This year's festival is dedicated to world music pioneer Babatunde Olatunji, who passed away recently at the age of 76. A frequent festival performer and teacher, Olatunji's 1959 recording, "Drums of Passion", is credited with bringing African music to a wide American audience. Olatunji influenced many modern musicians, including John Coltrane, Mickey Hart and Carlos Santana. A special dedication will take place on the Seattle Center House Stage at 7:00pm on Friday, April 25, 2003.

The Festival will feature more than 75 internationally recognized and local artists, including Carolyn Brandy, Arthur Hull, Ibrahima Camara and Keith Terry. These artists will offer unique participatory teaching workshops where participants can learn drum rhythms and dance steps of percussive cultures from around the world.

The World Rhythm Festival is a family event attended by people from all walks of life, and offers a broad range of cultural workshops, performances and activities that serve a diverse community. Since the festival is participatory, attendees are encouraged to bring their own instruments to experience a rare opportunity to learn from musical masters.

For more information, including an online press kit, visit www.swps.org.

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For more information, contact:

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Founded in 1994, the Seattle World Percussion Society (SWPS) believes in the positive impact of rhythm and strives to provide opportunities for people to experience this powerful effect in their lives. These opportunities include the annual World Rhythm Festival and community rhythm events.

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The Seattle World Percussion Society is a 501(c)(3) Nonprofit Organization.