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CORE ENSEMBLE PERFORMS CHAMBER MUSIC THEATRE WORK CELEBRATING HARLEM RENAISSANCE

On Tuesday evening, January 24th at 7:00 p.m., at the Elsie Plaster Community Center, Crowder College, Neosho, MO, the **Core Ensemble** will perform the chamber music theatre work, *Of Ebony Embers: Vignettes of the Harlem Renaissance*.

Chamber Music Theatre is a unique performance format created by the **Core Ensemble**, featuring a marriage of theatrical narrative to chamber music performance.

Chris White portrays multiple characters while interacting with the onstage musical trio of cello, piano and percussion.

Celebrating the music and poetry of the Harlem Renaissance era in New York City, *Of Ebony Embers* examines the lives of three outstanding but very different African American poets - **Langston Hughes**, **Countee Cullen** and **Claude McKay** - as seen through the eyes of the great painter and muralist **Aaron Douglas**.

The script was written by Akin Babatunde and the show is also directed by Mr. Babatunde.

The **Core Ensemble** performs music by African American composers ranging from jazz greats Duke Ellington, Thelonious Monk and Charles Mingus to concert music composers Jeffrey Mumford and George Walker.

Since 1993, **the Core Ensemble** has toured nationally to every region of the United States and internationally to England, Russia, the Ukraine, Australia and the British Virgin Islands. The Ensemble was the recipient of the 2000 Eugene McDermott Award for Excellence in the Arts awarded by the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and has received support from the State of Florida Department of Cultural Affairs, New England Foundation for the Arts, Palm Beach County Cultural Council, the Aaron Copland Fund for Music and the Virgil Thomson Foundation.

The program is free and open to the public. For more information, call 455-5634.

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Please contact Mr. Robert Ensor at the above listed number or my office for more information.

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