



For Immediate Release
February 9, 2010

Contact: Angela Olson
(301) 581-5194
aolson@strathmore.org

Strathmore Presents
LADYSMITH BLACK MAMBAZO

A Concert of Traditional South African Rhythms Combined with Gospel Music Themes

N. Bethesda, Md.-- Strathmore presents the Grammy award-winning South African ensemble Ladysmith Black Mambazo at the Music Center at Strathmore on Friday, March 5, 2010 at 8:00 p.m. The ensemble is known for blending the intricate rhythms and harmonies of their homeland's musical traditions with the sound and sentiments of Christian gospel music. Tickets are \$18-\$55. For more information or to purchase tickets, call (301) 581-5100 or visit www.strathmore.org.

Ladysmith Black Mambazo's rich tenor/alto/bass harmonies are performed by Joseph Shabalala, Msizi Shabalala, Russel Mthembu, Albert Mazibuko, Thulani Shabalala, Thamsanqa Shabalala, Sibongiseni Shabalala, Abednego Mazibuko and Ngane Dlamini.

Their philosophy is just as much about preservation of musical heritage as it is about entertainment. The group borrows heavily from a traditional music called isicathamiya (is-cot-a-ME-Ya), which developed in the mines of South Africa, where black workers were taken by rail to work far away from their homes and their families. Poorly housed and poorly paid, the mine workers would entertain themselves after a six-day week by singing songs into the wee hours on Sunday morning.

Ladysmith Black Mambazo was assembled in South Africa in the early 1960s by Joseph Shabalala- then a young farm boy turned factory worker. Ladysmith is the name of Shabalala's rural hometown; black is a reference to oxen, the strongest of all farm animals; and mambazo is the Zulu word for axe, a symbol of the group's vocal ability to "chop down" all things in their path.

More than 40 years later Lady Smith Black Mambazo has earned three Grammy awards and 15 nominations, including one for their most recent recording, *Ilembe: Honoring Shaka Zulu*. Their film work includes a featured appearance in Michael Jackson's *Moonwalker* video, and the group provided soundtrack material for Disney's *The Lion King, Part II*, as well as Eddie Murphy's *Coming To America*, Marlon Brando's *A Dry White Season*, Sean Connery's *The League of Extraordinary Gentlemen* and James Earl Jones' *Cry The Beloved Country*.

Strathmore is an established arts presenter and cultural destination that nurtures art, artists and community through creative and diverse programming of the highest quality and is home to the Music Center at Strathmore, a 1,976-seat concert hall and education complex. The Music Center at Strathmore, located at 5301 Tuckerman Lane in North Bethesda, MD, is immediately adjacent to the Grosvenor-Strathmore station on Metro's Red Line and a half-mile from the Capital Beltway. For those attending a ticketed performance at the Music Center at Strathmore, parking in the Metro garage is complimentary with your ticket. For further information or tickets, call (301) 581-5100 or visit www.strathmore.org.

###

Strathmore is supported by a grant from the Maryland State Arts Council, an agency dedicated to cultivating a vibrant cultural community where the arts thrive. An agency of the Department of Business & Economic Development, the MSAC provides financial support and technical assistance to non-profit organizations, units of government, colleges and universities for arts activities.

Strathmore is also supported in part by the Arts and Humanities Council of Montgomery County.

Strathmore Presents

Ladysmith Black Mambazo

Friday, March 5, 2010

8 p.m.

Music Center at Strathmore

5301 Tuckerman Lane

North Bethesda, MD 20852

Tickets: \$18-\$55

(301) 581-5100 or www.strathmore.org