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EDITOR NOTE: Downloadable photos here: <http://www.motionfest.org/photo.php>

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**ENSEMBLE MIK NAWOOJ AND PUSH DANCE COMPANY PRESENT
THE WORLD PREMIERE OF
COMPOSER JOOWAN KIM'S AND CHOREOGRAPHER RAISSA SIMPSON'S
GREAT INTEGRATION, A GROUNDBREAKING CHAMBER HIP-HOP OPERA
Performances June 18 and 19 at ODC Dance Commons in San Francisco**

San Francisco, March 19, 2010 – Dynamically forging new performance forms that collide music, dance and theater genres from hip hop to classical, composer/pianist JooWan Kim and choreographer Raissa Simpson present the world premiere of the epic chamber hip-hop opera Great Integration June 18 and 19 at ODC Dance Commons in San Francisco. Performed by Kim's Ensemble Mik Nawooj and Simpson's Push Dance Company, performances of the groundbreaking, genre-blurring installment of Kim's ongoing narrative epic about the end of times and new beginnings as revealed in a series of mystical prophecies in two performances Friday and Saturday, June 18 and 19, at 8 p.m. at ODC Dance Commons, 531 Shotwell Street, San Francisco. Information: <http://www.motionfest.org/project.php> Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/pages/Great-Integration-A-Chamber-Hip-Hop-Opera/170827364499>

Great Integration is steeped in an electrifyingly contemporary alloy of Taoist tradition, hip-hop music, dance and poetry; forward-looking philosophy and arresting performance presentation. In this penultimate installment of the ongoing Mik Nawooj saga, Black Swordsman of dominance is chosen as the one to trigger the Great Integration of the world before the arrival of Celestial King. When all the five lords of material realm are conquered, the old world we know will merge into one and the Great Celestial King will descend from ninth heaven to wipe out all the impurities of the world, thus creating a new world with brand new paradigm. It is an allegory that the co-creators find particularly apt for the approaching end times prophesied by the Mayan and other cultures in 2012 and, more importantly, for the new era that these tribulations will usher in.

Along with Simpson's visceral, high-energy choreography that propels the storyline, the music incorporates elements from hip-hop and classical, creating a unique hybrid that is in the spirit of Gershwin and Piazzolla, both of whom pushed and blurred the boundaries of vernacular and art music. Backed by his own Ensemble Mik Nawooj, featuring MC Kirby Dominant, JooWan Kim succeeds in accomplishing what most musicians want to but are unable to; creating a new kind of music that combines genres that are seemingly incompatible with each other. Jazz vocalist Christopher Nicholas will be opening for the premiere in San Francisco. Following its world premiere, Great Integration will receive its New York premiere at the Joyce Soho in July, 2010. Sponsors of Great Integration include CHIME, Zellerbach Family Foundation, the William and Flora Hewlett Foundation and individual donors.

About JooWan Kim and Ensemble Mik Nawooj

Music legend Ahmad Jamal said, ““In this day and age, for an artist to succeed, the talent has to be either exceptional or very different. JooWan Kim is both; exceptional and very different.”

Ensemble Mik Nawooj (EMN) performs innovative music of composer/pianist JooWan Kim, who blends such genres as classical, hip-hop, film music, jazz, and pop into a unique musical hybrid.

Since the first public performance in spring of 2005, EMN has gathered much attention and shock from various music fans for its uncompromising blend of rap and classical. Ensemble Mik Nawooj has successfully merged the vernacular with traditional Western European music without losing the integrity of both genres. EMN, however, is neither a hip-hop band nor classical ensemble. It lies in the common place where all music lives and breathes, expanding and transmuting its sound.

JooWan Kim is a Taoist/Zen practitioner as well as a connoisseur of fine tea. In 2006, JooWan signed a management contract with the Jazz Legend Ahmad Jamal (2006-2009). In 2007, he received a lifetime endorsement from the Steinway and Sons Piano Company.

About Raissa Simpson and Push Dance Company

Founded in 2005, Push Dance Company (Push) has embraced new media and technology to express its cross-cultural perspectives. Under the direction of Raissa Simpson, the company dares to work with visual artists alongside pyrotechnic dancing, music collaborations, community projects & touring to critical-acclaim.

The hip-hop generational modern dance company has distinguished itself through its dedication to athleticism- bringing art to the people. Recently the company has toured & performed at the Washington Ensemble Theater (Seattle), Laney College (Oakland), 418 Project (Santa Cruz), Dance Mission Theater (SF), Cowell Theater (SF), ODC Commons Theater (SF), MoAD SF- Museum of African Diaspora & San Jose State University where, the company was awarded the “Peoples Choice” award honor. The company has offered master classes, workshops and performance opportunities to students at UC Santa Cruz, Berkeley High School, CounterPulse, Alonzo King Lines Dance Center, ODC School and many more. Additionally, the company has formed community partnership with 3rd St Youth Center & Clinic in Bayview Hunters Point offering underserved youth positive creative outlets of expression.

The core subjects of Simpson’s multidisciplinary works address race, gender, identity, history, and the digital divide. Her choreography is spearheaded Push’s re-visioning to make work that directly impacts people within the community. Push has three areas of programming: 1) create non-traditional dances through innovative collaborations; 2) bring together non-dancers with professional artists through community projects; 3) mark the importance of belonging to the national dance community through touring. Push is recipient of Theatre Bay Area’s CA\$H Grant, CHIME (Choreographers in Mentorship Exchange); Residencies at the Garage Artspace and Zaccho Dance Theater; two San Francisco Arts Commission’s Arts & Communities: Innovative Partnerships and four consecutive Zellerbach Family Foundation awards with one in combination with William and Flora Hewlett Foundation and Wallace Alexander Gerbode Foundation.

Tickets and information

Tickets for the world premiere performances of Great Integration are priced \$15-\$25 and may be purchased by calling the ODC box office at 415-863-9834 or at www.brownpapertickets.com/event/104653

CALENDAR EDITOR PLEASE LIST:

WORLD PREMIERE OF GROUNDBREAKING CHAMBER HIP-HOP OPERA GREAT INTEGRATION

WHAT: World premiere of JooWan Kim's and Raissa Simpson's groundbreaking chamber hip-hop opera Great Integration

When: Friday and Saturday, June 18 and 19, at 8 p.m.

Where: ODC Commons Theater, 351 Shotwell Street, San Francisco, Ca 94110

Tickets: General: \$ 25, Students with ID and Seniors \$ 15

Available by calling ODC Theater box office: 415.863.9834 www.brownpapertickets.com/event/104653. MasterCard & Visa

are accepted. **Hours:** Wed-Sat, 2-5pm **Website:** <http://www.motionfest.org/photo.php>

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