

**Yolanda F. Johnson, Soprano
Announces New York City Recital Debut**

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(New York, New York) - Ms. Johnson's musical career began with piano lessons at age four, in addition to singing in the church where her grandfather preached, and entered classical choral singing at age nine. She continued her musical work at Omaha North High School and received her undergraduate degree in Voice from the University of Tulsa, where she studied with Linda Roark-Strummer. Ms. Johnson continued her vocal graduate studies with the renowned Dr. Mary Schiller at the University of Akron, where she completed a graduate degree in Arts Management. She is the former Acting Executive Director of Tulsa, Oklahoma's first community music school and was an instructor of Voice and Humanities at Tulsa Community College.

Ms. Johnson's September 13 recital program will include selections which have outlined her experiences throughout her 30 years, such as Purcell's "Music for a While," Hahn's "L'Heure Exquise," Verdi's "Stornello" (in Italian, which begins comically with "You say that you don't love me? I don't love you either"), and a selection of spirituals, including Malotte's "The Lord's Prayer." The setting of the Broadway Presbyterian Church, one of New York City's premiere performing arts venues, promises to lend itself to an undeniably enjoyable evening of song. On the recital program, Ms Johnson will be joined by guitarist Jeff Haley.

Ms. Johnson has previously performed in a variety of roles, including Zerlina and Susanna in Mozart's Don Giovanni and Le Nozze di Figaro, respectively. She made her New York City operatic debut with the Touring Concert Opera Company and has appeared as a soloist with various groups, including the Eastern Festival Symphony Orchestra in New York. Most recently, she performed as part of Make Music New York with a concert in Central Park to mark the summer solstice this past June. She is slated to be a presenter at Performing the World International Performing Arts Conference in October 2008 with a workshop entitled *The Use of Song as Historic and Personal Narrative*.