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ALUMNA SYLVIA MCNAIR RETURNS FOR SACRED RECITAL

Singer and 1978 alumna Sylvia McNair is returning to Wheaton College for a special sacred recital, Saturday, September 8, 2007, at 7 pm, in conjunction with The Artist Series at Wheaton College. Tickets are now available.

"Coming back to Wheaton, and Pierce Chapel in particular, to sing some of my favorite sacred songs is a great pleasure indeed," says Sylvia. "I call this program 'Songs for Sacred Spaces' because the music comes from a broad range of sources, all with sacred-to-me messages. To start off my 2007-2008 concert season with a performance at Wheaton - when my 30th reunion is not all that far away! - is wonderful on so many levels."

Sylvia McNair has enthralled music lovers for more than 25 years. Her career includes more than 70 recordings, worldwide accolades and two Grammy Awards. But her most valued success to date is surviving breast cancer. Diagnosed in 2006, Sylvia underwent five major surgeries plus months of chemotherapy and radiation, all while traveling and performing from New York to Florida. During that time, Sylvia joined the faculty of the prestigious Jacobs School of Music at Indiana University.

As if those weren't enough life changes, Sylvia has also segued into new musical territory; at least, new to her. Known for decades as a master of opera and oratorio, Sylvia is now singing from the Great American Songbook. The Wall Street Journal wrote, "In recent years, such first-rank classical artists as Renee Fleming and Sylvia McNair have proved adept at jazz vocals. The idiom is in their blood," (March 2007).

Since 1982, Sylvia has performed with almost every major American and European orchestra and opera company, including The Met, Chicago Lyric Opera, Salzburg Festival, New York Philharmonic, and Philharmonics of Vienna and Berlin. She's worked with conductors Masur, Ozawa, Slatkin, Marriner, Previn and the late Robert Shaw. Career highlights include singing for Pope John Paul II, Hillary Rodham Clinton and the US Supreme Court.

'Songs for Sacred Spaces' will be in Pierce Memorial Chapel, located at the southeast corner of Washington and Franklin streets. Seating is general admission. Tickets are \$30. Seniors (over 60) are eligible for a discounted rate of \$20. Tickets may be ordered online at www.artistseries.org, or by calling 630.752.5010. Sylvia is available for phone interviews with the media before August 3rd or after August 20th.

Wheaton College (Wheaton, Ill.) is a coeducational Christian liberal arts college noted for its rigorous academics, integration of faith and learning, and consistent ranking among the top liberal arts colleges in the country.