

## Ethnic Heritage Council

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE – May 10, 2012**

**EVENT DATE:** June 1, 2012

**CEASE DATE:** June 2, 2012

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### ETHNIC HERITAGE COUNCIL HONORS PATRINELL WRIGHT

**WHAT:** **Ethnic SpringFest**  
*Color photos available upon request, see below.*

**WHEN:** **June 1, Friday, 5:30 p.m.**

**WHERE:** **House of Hong, 409 - 8th Avenue South, Seattle, 98104**  
**Reservations: EHC Members, \$45; non-members, \$55; youth 13 & under, \$25**

Seattle: June 1, 2012 EHC and friends will honor **Pastor Patrinell Wright** for all she has done for our community and beyond! EHC will honor her with the “Cultural Treasure Award” at *House of Hong* with superb entertainment by **Wheedle’s Groove** and Master of Ceremonies actor **Daniel Niven**.

Patrinell Wright is an award-winning gospel singer, founder and leader of a world-renown choir, a pastor and an activist. Her many accomplishments have garnered innumerable awards and the adulation of admirers the world over. So many “A” words describe her: artistic, accomplished, awards, adulation, admirers, but Aid and Assistance have defined her career.

Pastor Patrinell Wright was born one of seven children in Carthage, Texas where her dad was a Baptist preacher and her mom a school teacher. Pat sang her first solo at age 3 and by age 14, she had taught herself to play the piano and was directing two church choirs. She was valedictorian at her high school graduation and attended Prairie View A&M College.

When she arrived in Seattle in 1964, she used her gifts to nurture youthful talent by directing choirs at Franklin and Roosevelt High Schools and formed the Total Experience Gospel Choir. She established the Oneness Christian Center to minister to those hit hardest by life's challenges.

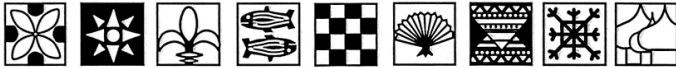
The choir is a total experience in every way: diverse in race and age – 7-72. And its repertoire is not confined to gospel. The total musical experience ranges from Quincy Jones to Steely Dan to the Mormon Tabernacle Choir to the production of three American Idol contestants. But Pat Wright’s gospel sound is defined by the way she sings, with heart.

In her ongoing mission to aid and assist, Patrinell Wright has used her musical talents all around the world. “I never wanted to be one of those choirs where you just go from church to church to church to sing. I wanted to conquer the world with what we did.” After visiting hurricane-ravaged New Orleans and Mississippi in 2006, Pat told the choir: “that’s our next mission”. In more than four trips there, the choir has sung and worked. They helped one family move out of their FEMA trailer into a home they rebuilt for them. Wright was invited by Japan and Korea to spread gospel music there. They are currently in Japan helping with tsunami relief for the people of Ishinomaki, Japan. They have sent funds to assist a Buddhist monk to feed, clothe and bring solace to hundreds in the refugee camps.

Gospel music is a valuable part of our American ethnic heritage, a heritage as old as our country. Robbed of everything in their cultural history, slaves in America never lost the spirit of musical rhythms hidden in the heads and hearts, and thus our country was enriched by the spirituals and gospel music of these early African immigrants.

Pastor Patrinell Wright is a true cultural treasure, a glorious example of what the Ethnic Heritage Council stands for, to preserve and promote ethnic and cultural traditions, foster mutual understanding, enrich lives and celebrate our heritage. Patrinell and the Total Experience Gospel Choir are an integral part of EHC’s annual Naturalization Ceremony, giving us their soulful performance for countless years, demonstrating to hundreds of new citizens what it means to be an American.





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Page 2 of 2, EHC SpringFest

Since the EHC's inception in 1980, the Council has worked to promote inter-ethnic communication and cultural preservation in the Northwest. EHC continues to produce international festivals, a public July 4th Naturalization Ceremony; publishes a monthly Newsletter and Calendar of Northwest Ethnic and Cultural Events, and provides a referral service to schools, government agencies and private citizens.

Ethnic SpringFest 2012 sponsors include: **PEMCO Insurance** and **Jagdish Sharma**.

EHC Annual Events - photos by Jal: Naturalization Ceremony; Annual Dinner; Cultural Crossroads; Winter Worldfest. Photos by Jal Schrof © EHC. Visit: [www.pbase.com/jal](http://www.pbase.com/jal); [www.pbase.com/jal/ehc\\_springfest\\_2011](http://www.pbase.com/jal/ehc_springfest_2011); [www.pbase.com/jal/washington\\_stories](http://www.pbase.com/jal/washington_stories)

**Ethnic Heritage Council of the Pacific Northwest Invites You to Join Us at ETHNIC SPRINGFEST - FRIDAY, JUNE 1, 2012. An Evening of Friendship & Celebration - Presenting our "Cultural Treasure Award" to Pastor PATRINELL WRIGHT**

**5:30 pm - Social Hour/No-Host Bar**  
**6:30 pm - Dinner Served**  
**7:30 pm - Celebratory Program**  
**With Entertainment by Wheedle's Groove**

**\$45 EHC Member**  
**\$55 Non-Member**  
**\$25 youth 13 & under**

**House of Hong Restaurant**  
**409 - 8th Avenue South, Seattle, 98104**

**RSVP by May 25th to:**  
**206-443-1410 or [ehc@seattle.gov](mailto:ehc@seattle.gov)**  
**Send payment to: EHC, 305 Harrison St. #304, Seattle, WA 98109**  
**For more information visit: [www.ethnicheritagecouncil.org](http://www.ethnicheritagecouncil.org)**

Patrinell Wright at EHC's Washington Stories Event



Photo by Jal Schrof

