

For Immediate Release

WORD-BEAT'S TOM TEASLEY AND CHARLES WILLIAMS PERFORM THEIR
LAUDED PROGRAM AT NEW YORK'S CORNELIA STREET CAFÉ SEPT 20

Alexandria, VA -- Word-Beat combines the dramatic voice of singer/actor Charles Williams with a global remix of rhythms from percussion artist Tom Teasley. They combine history's greatest words about justice, peace, and life with music inspired by the writer's culture of origin. Poetry and prose from Harlem, the Civil Rights Movement, ancient Africa, India, and the Middle East converge with the energy of jazz, folk, and modern music. Word-Beat will perform at the Cornelia St Café, September 20, 6-8pm.

Charles Williams' rich baritone presents the words of Martin Luther King, Gandhi, the mystic poet Rumi, Langston Hughes and other writers. Percussionist Tom Teasley adds churning layers of rhythm on an abundance of drums and world instruments – from the djembé of ancient Africa to the hand drum synthesizer and the latest electronics.

"Their collaboration transcends form and culture, radiating a universal power and hope" writes the Washington Post's Mike Joyce. Word-Beat's first recording, *Poetry, Prose, Percussion and Song* was hailed as one of the most important of its kind at the 2007 International Association for Jazz Education conference. IAJE singled out Word-Beat as a leading collaboration in the integration of poetry and music, calling Word-Beat's recordings "must-haves." The duo's second CD, *The Soul Dances*, was nominated for the Washington Area Music Association's Best World Music Release award.

Each Word-Beat performance offers a unique selection of writings, pulled from a growing repertoire including African proverbs, African-American spirituals, mystic writings of the Sufi Hazrat Inayat Kahn, traditional Egyptian dervish folk songs, and writings from American poets Eloise Greenfield and James Weldon Johnson. The music is freshly improvised for each performance, drawing on Tom Teasley's vast collection of world percussion instruments and his virtuoso command of techniques from Brazil to ancient Persia to West Africa.

Word-Beat thrives on live performance, having appeared at these and many other venues:

- Lincoln Center Institute for Aesthetic Education Kennedy Center, Washington, DC
- Berlin, Germany
- Percussive Arts Society International Convention
- Eastman School of Music
- Brooklyn School of Music, Brooklyn, NY
- Presenters' Showcase, New York, NY
- Augusta Heritage Festival - Davis & Elkins College, WV
- Center for Multi-Cultural Experiences of SUNY, Oneonta, NY
- Garret Lakes Arts Festival, Garret Co., MD
- Pennsylvania State University Campuses
- University of Virginia

- East Coast Jazz Festival

Sample Word-Beat's recordings and learn more at www.Word-Beat.com. More information on the Cornelia St Café performance is available at www.corneliastreet.com