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For Peace I Rise, *The Musical*

**THE KAPPA FOUNDATION OF GEORGIA PROVIDES \$5K GIFT TO SUPPORT NEW MUSICAL HIGHLIGHTING THE LOVE STORY OF CIVIL RIGHTS MOVEMENT LEADERS**

**DR. C.T. VIVIAN AND OCTAVIA GEANS VIVIAN**

**--FOR PEACE I RISE, THE MUSICAL TO OPEN FEB. 1, 2024--**

The Kappa Foundation of Georgia presented a \$5,000 gift to support the production of *For Peace I Rise, The Musical*, a new civil rights-era musical set to debut in Atlanta at the Rialto Center for the Arts on February 1, 2024, running through February 4, 2024. The first-of-its-kind production uses the love story between, “A Man, A Women and A Movement,” to highlight civil rights leaders, Dr. C.T. Vivian and Octavia Geans Vivian. The musical serves as a platform to shine a light on a critical chapter in American history: the American civil rights movement, which ran from 1954-1968.

The Kappa Foundation of Georgia, which is affiliated with Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity, Inc., made the check presentation to Emory University Vice Provost for Diversity and Inclusion Dr. Carol E. Henderson on July 24, 2023, at Emory’s Theater Lab in the Donna and Marvin Schwartz Center for the Performing Arts. KFOG is the first Greek letter organization in the world to give funding support to help bring *For Peace I Rise, The Musical*, to the Atlanta stage.

“This story centers on an unparalleled chapter in American history, but it is a musical production for today,” said Dr. Henderson, who also serves Chief Diversity Officer|Adviser to the President at Emory. “It will reveal an extraordinary couple’s love story against the backdrop of the American civil rights movement and promises to reach people on a very deep level.”

Dr. Henderson serves as chair of the For Peace I Rise Advisory Board and has been instrumental in facilitating Emory University’s support to the production, including providing financial support in Theatre Emory’s incubation of the Staged Reading production in January 2020.

“Pre-production activities such as the Reading at Emory and other significant strides towards bringing the musical to the stage have built confidence and anticipation of the premiere among organizations such as Kappa Foundation of Georgia,” she said.

“When Chris Davis, executive producer of the production, contacted the Kappa Foundation of Georgia and told us about his plans to produce the first musical love story about Dr. Vivian and his wife Octavia, I knew it was the kind of project that we had to give our support,” said James E. Freeman, Chairman of the Kappa Foundation of Georgia. “We know our will help tell this important story, while passing the baton of nonviolent protest for civil rights and social justice to the next generation, which is the target of so much of the foundation’s work.”

The musical production was created with the full support of the Vivian family and the Dr. C.T and Octavia Vivian Estate for the express purpose of preserving the legacies of Dr. C.T. Vivian and Octavia Vivian.

“Our family is confident that *For Peace I Rise, The Musical* will have a significant impact on audiences who want and need to know more about the struggles, passion, and commitments on the part of the heroes of the movement,” said Denise Vivian Morse. “It will send an important message about American history to all who have the opportunity to enjoy the theatrical experience.”

Check presentation attendees included the Vivians' five children and their spouses; *For Peace I Rise, The Musical* executive producer Chris Davis; For Peace I Rise Advisory Board members Yvonne Wiltz; Melvin T. Solomon; and Erin Davis. In addition to Chairman Freeman, other Kappa Foundation of Georgia officers attending the event were: William J. Kelley, Vice Chairman; Jarrod R. Browder, Secretary; and Charles E. Bell, Treasurer, with board members Zeddie Perry II, Dr. Stanley Pritchett, and Melvin Solomon.

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