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## Anthony Brown and Girma Yifrashewa perform classical pieces

By Alemayehu Seife-Selassie

ADDIS ABABA, Ethiopia - The internationally renowned US artist and peace promoter Anthony Brown and Ethiopian respected pianist Girma Yifrashewa performed twenty musical pieces at the Yared Music School this past Tuesday. The artists presented their charity show aiming to benefit women and children living with HIV/AIDS. Performing with Anthony Brown was also the British pianist Brian Wilson, giving their brief speeches before every song, both Anthony and Girma managed to get the audience at the Yared music school a taste of how their songs were conceived.

The piece, which captivated the audience even more was the song that the two did together Zimitegna Liboch [Silent Hearts]. Antony was singing in Amharic and the audience was marveled by the quick adaptation skills of the artist.

Girma played his three pieces Sememen [elusion] which he wrote using the classical fusion and Ethiopian traditional modal systems Anchihoeye, Chewata, Bati, and Eliita. "Sememen is the feeling we have early in the morning laying somewhere between waking up and sleep, Chewata represents the fun we make even when we are in a sad situations. Eliita is a situational really emotional expression of happiness it is an oral musical chant we create using our mouth", explains Girma.

Anthony on his part explained the significance of his visit saying, "It is a particular thrill to share this stage with other competent and able artist. The collaboration we are all witnessing together is like how we would want it to be around the world against the difference with age, race and culture to come together and raise our voices together as one."

The songs that Anthony sung were hymns of old American tunes created in 1850s, American spirituals which were sung during the time of African Americans 300 years of enslavement, and songs from his recent CD 'Each other's light'. Having an interactive element where the audience could also take part in singing, Anthony took the crowd as a choir.

Anthony has sung in Bosnia, Ireland, China, Japan and lots of other countries. Ethiopia is one of the few African countries, which got the chance to host the celebrated artist.

May 19, 2007

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