



## ACHE program focusing on Negro spirituals

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Holland, MI — In celebration of Black History month, the Alliance for Cultural and Ethnic Harmony (ACEH) will hold an interactive program on Negro spirituals, including a historical review of selected music. The program begins at 7 p.m., Friday at the Center for Women in Transition, 411 Butternut Drive. The public is invited.

Leading the workshop will be Park Township resident and Inkster native Jauanna Jackson, who for many years taught music in West Ottawa schools, and pianist Jeremy Simpson, music director of Sunshine Ministries Church, Grandville. Simpson has also served churches in Holland and Muskegon.

Because the tunes and beats of Negro spirituals were influenced by the music of their cultural environment and grew out of people's experiences of the time, the styles vary in different periods of history. These include "shouts," work songs, quiet songs, or songs with covert messages; some made reference to the Underground Railroad; others were call-and-response hymns. During the Civil Rights movement of the 1960s, spirituals were adapted to specific events like the March on Selma, Alabama.

ACEH was founded in 1999 to work for justice, equal rights, cross-cultural understanding, and appreciation for diversity. For more information, call (616) 396-2201 or go to the website [www.harmonyalliance.org](http://www.harmonyalliance.org)

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