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Sheila E. and The Dashing Suns Join the All Star Lineup of Oakland Musical Greats at 10th Anniversary Art & Soul Festival

**CAKE, MC Hammer, En Vogue, Tony! Toni! Toné!,
Sheila E., Pete Escovedo, Lenny Williams, Edwin Hawkins,
Vicki Randle, John Santos, The Dashing Suns and More**

OAKLAND, California (August 10, 2010)— Oakland-born musical powerhouse and Emmy nominee **Sheila E.** is among the recent additions to the musical lineup for the **10th Anniversary Art & Soul Oakland**. Already featuring dazzling array of musical all-stars that call or have called Oakland home, Art & Soul's lineup is further bolstered by the addition of this acclaimed percussionist and vocalist to Sunday's roster. **The Dashing Suns**, a four-piece Oakland band, will bring their unique sound to the Main Stage on Saturday. Running from Noon to 6:00 p.m. on Saturday, August 21, and Sunday, August 22, in Oakland's happening downtown, Art & Soul will deliver non-stop, home-grown music sure to please every musical taste. Thanks to its stellar musical lineups, abundant parking, easy BART access and the bargain price of just \$10 per day (\$15 at the door), Art & Soul has been named the Bay Area's "best cultural event" by *Oakland Magazine* and "Best Festival" by *East Bay Express*.

The off-beat humor and catchy melodies of **CAKE** headline Saturday's show at the **Art & Soul Main Stage** (in association with **KFOG 104.5FM/97.7FM**). Their sardonic wit mixes funk, new wave, jazz, rockabilly and country to produce engaging alternative pop music. Always a crowd favorite, CAKE is certain to get festival-goers of all ages and musical tastes on their feet dancing! Additional acts are in the works for the KFOG stage and will be announced shortly. **The Bittersweets** will also appear on the Main Stage with their alternative folk-pop as heard on the group's 2008 breakthrough album, "Goodnight, San Francisco." **The Dashing Suns**, a four-piece Oakland band that takes inspiration from everyday life, will also be on stage. The group caught the attention of MTV's Buzzworthy blog and is currently recording a full-length album.

Saturday's **Oakland Jams Stage** will feature a wide variety of music produced by Oakland jazz great Kahlil Shaheed. Shaheed has been building bridges as a vital part of the Bay Area music scene for 40 years, performing and recording with giants in jazz, rock and R&B, from Taj Mahal and Jimi Hendrix to alto sax player John Handy and vibraphonist Bobby Hutcherson. A producer, composer, bandleader and educator who founded the Oaktown Jazz Workshop in 1994, His **Mo'Rockin' Project** brings virtuosity on traditional Moroccan instruments to create a seamless blend of American jazz and blues with traditional Moroccan flavor. Local favorite **John Santos** rounds out the stage with his unique, stirring blend of Afro-Latin jazz. A four-time Grammy nominee, Santos has been a star of the Bay Area Latin music for more than 35 years. Closing out the Oakland Jams Stage is the one-and-only **MC Hammer**. Loved as a flamboyant dancer and showman, the Oakland-born singer is the man who brought rap to a mass pop audience. He is a multiple Grammy winner and his *Please Hammer, Don't Hurt 'Em* is still

among the top selling rap albums of all time. Described as a comedic Molotov-cocktail of characters, Oakland born comedian **Don Reed** will emcee Saturday's Oakland Jams Stage.

Sunday, the **Art & Soul Main Stage** (sponsored by **KBLX 102.9 FM**) is lovingly produced by **D'Wayne Wiggins** and it's all Oakland, all day long. **D'Wayne Wiggins & Friends House Party** is a true Oakland R&B homecoming. Any festival featuring Oakland artists would naturally include **En Vogue**. The group incorporated sass, elegance and class with amazing individual vocals and silky harmonies. En Vogue is one of the most successful female groups of all time having sold more than 20 million records worldwide and earned seven Grammy nominations. **Tony! Toni! Toné!**, two brothers and a cousin all from Oakland, formed and created a new contemporary R&B that incorporated new jack swing and 70s soul funk creating a fusion of traditional and modern sounds resulting in three multi-platinum albums. **Sheila E.** will bring her explosive percussive sound and hot vocals for a set on the Main Stage. She's been nominated for an Emmy for Outstanding Music Direction for her role in PBS's "In Performance At The White House: Fiesta Latina." The House Party will also feature **Jay King**, the original producer of the Times Social Club and member of Club Nouveau. Oakland's own **Mark Curry** will emcee the House Party.

Sunday's **Plaza Stage**, produced in partnership with Yoshi's, is all about jazz diversity. Oakland's beloved **Pete Escovedo** continues to be a major force in Latin music just as he has since the 1960s. He developed into a world-class percussionist playing jazz, but shot to fame performing with his brother Coke as percussionists for Santana. Pete's daughter, acclaimed percussionist and vocalist **Sheila E.**, will join her father on stage. Sheila E's mega-hits include "The Glamorous Life" and "A Love Bizarre." Oakland resident **Vicki Randle** shot to fame as a percussionist on the "Tonight Show with Jay Leno." She will be joined on the Plaza Stage by a number of her musical friends. The Plaza stage will also feature alto saxophonist **John Handy**, also an Oakland resident, who will demonstrate his versatility by playing a host of reed instruments. A highly accomplished performer, composer, arranger, educator, musicologist and jazz historian, Handy's highly acclaimed compositions brought down the house at the 1965 Monterey Jazz Festival and earned two Grammy nominations.

On Saturday, the **12th Street Stage** will feature the soaring sounds of **Gospel** including Oakland's own recording legend **Edwin Hawkins** and the **Love Center Choir**. The choir emanated in the early 1970's from Oakland's Love Center Church under the leadership of founder/pastor **Bishop Walter L. Hawkins**, who passed away in July at age 61. Saxophonist Stabe Wilson and Terrance Kelly & the Oakland Interfaith Gospel Choir also appear on the Gospel lineup.

On Sunday, the **12th Street Stage** transforms into the ever popular **Blues Stage** with headliner **Lenny Williams**, plus the **Bay Area Blues Society Caravan of All-Stars** and local favorite **Freddie Hughes**. Williams gained fame as lead singer for Tower of Power and remains a popular fixture on the Bay Area music scene.

Oakland's musical heritage is rich and diverse. From the birthplace of West Coast Blues to dominating the pop music scene with the urban soul sounds of The Pointer Sisters and Tower of Power then pioneering new jack swing/funk/soul with Tony! Toni! Toné! and En Vogue and taking rap/hip hop to the masses with Too \$hort and others, Oakland has remained not only musically relevant but revolutionary for several decades.

Over the past ten years, **Art & Soul** has showcased major national talent and even helped launch musical careers. The festival has hosted a broad range of national recording artists and local favorites including Ziggy Marley, Joan Osborne, Blues Traveler, Rickie Lee Jones, Shawn Colvin, Indigo Girls, BoDeans, Matt Nathanson, Howie Day, Plain White T's, Silversun

Pickups, The Lovemakers, Los Lobos, Lyrics Born, The Matches, Zion-I, Bobby Caldwell, Angie Stone, Rachelle Ferrell, Stephanie Mills, Will Downing, Con Funk Shun, Ledisi, Goapele and a host of local jazz, blues, gospel and R&B favorites.

Art & Soul has great music but that's not all. A family paradise, the festival boasts the largest **Family Fun Zone** of any festival in the Bay Area, complete with kiddie rides, carnival games, hands-on activities and free festival admission for ages 12 and under. **New this year**, the **first 50 kids** each day that complete the Bike Safety Rodeo, presented by Bank of America and organized by the East Bay Bicycle Coalition, will **receive free bicycle helmets**. The Rodeo will be staffed by Safe Routes to Schools instructors from Cycles of Change.

The **Lucky FoodStyle Pavilion** will have celebrity Oakland chefs whipping up tasty food demonstrations mixed with acoustic sets by local singer-songwriters. Also new for 2010 is the **Rosenblum Cellars Wine Garden** where festival-goers may sample a variety of quality Rosenblum Cellars wines within the Lucky FoodStyle Pavilion. The \$5 sampling fee contributes to Art & Soul's support of handcraft artisans and local musicians.

A ten-year Art & Soul tradition continues as budding artists are invited to grab a brush and participate in the **community mural project**. Located on Jefferson Street at 14th, this year's community mural project is presented by ProArts and lead by **muralist Stevens Jay Carter**.

Stop by the **Oakland Museum of California's** booth on 14th Street between Broadway and Clay to add your personal comments and signature to their 16-foot mural entitled "Why I Love Oakland." When completed the banner will be displayed in City Hall, the museum and be added to the wall of murals at 19th Street and Telegraph in the Uptown district.

You can also view a variety of art at Art & Soul. **Pro Arts at Oakland Art Gallery** will have artist demonstrations and hands-on activities in their gallery in Kahn's Alley within the festival grounds. The nearby **Youth Art Gallery** will showcase select art pieces created by Oakland Fine Arts Summer School students.

Every year, Art & Soul Oakland features hundreds of **artisan and vendor booths** as well as a mouth-watering array of food reflecting the rich cultural diversity found in Oakland—the most diverse city in America.

The **10th Anniversary Art & Soul** is Northern California's most accessible festival offering direct service from BART (12th Street - Oakland City Center Station) and free parking for thousands of cars. Last year more than 60,000 people enjoyed sensational music, food, fun, dance and art in beautiful downtown Oakland. "Ten years ago, Art & Soul sparked the transformation of downtown Oakland into a happening center for arts, culture and dining." says **Samee Roberts**, City of Oakland Marketing Director. "With 80 restaurants and scores of new clubs, lounges, galleries, and cultural amenities, including the renovated Fox Theater, downtown Oakland is drawing people from all over the region in droves."

The **10th Anniversary Art & Soul Oakland** takes place in downtown Oakland and is centered in Frank Ogawa Plaza and City Center, encompassing 10 strollable city blocks. Admission for Adults is \$10 per day (online if purchased by August 20) and \$15 per day at the door. Seniors and youth (ages 13-17) are \$5 per day (online if purchased by August 20) and \$8 per day at the door. Children 12 & under are free. Advance tickets are available on line at www.ArtandSoulOakland.com. For more information on the **10th Anniversary Art & Soul Oakland**, visit the website or call (510) 444-CITY.