

Collaboration illuminates our artistic genius

Written by

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Threads Dance Project will perform this Friday and Saturday (March 21 and March 22) with Grammy Nominated Sweet Honey in the Rock at the Cowles Center in downtown Minneapolis.

The show also includes a reprise of "Humanity & Elysian Fields Avenue" – a dance about the physical and emotional tragedies of Hurricane Katrina.

"To collaborate with this nationally acclaimed music group is sure to be an inspirational, truly memorable performance," said Karen L. Charles, artistic director for Threads. "Threads Dance Project seeks to examine, expose and celebrate the threads that connect us in the hope of improving humanity through its work. This mission runs parallel to Sweet Honey in the Rock's desire to invite people to think about who we are and how we treat each other. I have always been drawn to Sweet Honey's music because they say in music what I try to say with movement."

Performances take place March 21 and 22 at 7:30 p.m. at Cowles Center for Dance and the Performing Arts, 528 Hennepin Ave., Minneapolis. For ticket information, visit www.thecowlescoper.org or call (612) 206-3600.

The Mission of Threads Dance Project is to examine, expose and celebrate the threads that

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connect one another by celebrating the human spirit through dance. Threads Dance Project is in its third season. The company was founded by Charles after her father passed away, leaving her just enough money to realize her 10-year dream of becoming a choreographer and director of her own company. Charles studied as a fellowship recipient at the Alvin Ailey American Dance Theatre. She served as founder and principal instructor of Discovering Dance (Atlanta), and was an instructor in the Atlanta Public School System for 10 years.



Sweet Honey in the Rock is a Grammy-nominated a cappella ensemble, celebrating four decades of creating an adventurous and diverse mix of blues, African, jazz, gospel and R&B music. Last year Sweet Honey released its 23rd CD, "Sweet Honey in the Rock ... A Tribute, Live! Jazz at Lincoln Center," which paid homage to the music of iconic jazz diva's Abbey Lincoln, Miriam Makeba, Odetta and Nina Simone. They also performed at the unveiling of the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. memorial statue and at the U.S. memorial service for Nelson Mandela at the National Cathedral in Washington, D.C.