

HAITIAN AMERICANS UNITED INC.

For Immediate Release

December 15, 2001

Re: **Haitian Independence Day Gala, January 5, 2002**
On the Road to 2004, Haiti's 200th Independence Anniversary

Contacts: Eno Mondesir, Haitian-Americans United Inc. (617) 298-2976
(617) 276-3174

The Haitian-Americans United Inc. announces the Haitian Independence Day Gala celebrating Haitian Independence and honoring Haitian musicologist **Charles Dessalines**, great-grand-son of **General Jean-Jacques Dessalines**, founder of Haiti's Independence on January 1st, 1804.

Saturday, January 5, 2002 7pm-12am at Lombardo's Function Hall
Route 28, Randolph Ma 02368

The Haitian Americans United Inc. is pleased to present this celebration of Haiti's independence to bring together members of the Haitian-American community and friends of Haiti. After fierce battles against the Spanish, the British and the French armies, Haiti became in 1804 the second nation after the US to acquire its independence in the Western Hemisphere, and the first black Republic in the world. This celebration will feature prominent leaders, such as keynote speakers State Representative Phillip Brutus from Miami, Massachusetts based **State Representative Marie Saint-Fleur** and Massachusetts **Senator Bill Owens** and first class artists from the community. The event will be attended by ambassadors and consuls whose countries have long cooperated with Haiti.

HAU **Chairman Eno Mondesir** mentioned: "Part of what this event is aiming at reminding us is that Freedom and Independence are not achieved once and for all. We must pursue them on a constant basis"

Says **Dr. Charles Dessalines**, the honoree: "I am grateful to see that over several decades, and far away from their country, Haitians continue to appreciate the accomplishments of my great-grand father. This tribute to me is a tribute to him, and its validates my involvement in many community, cultural and patriotic endeavors...."

Miami based **State Representative Phillipe Brutus** adds: "I look forward to having the opportunity to sharing with Greater Boston Haitian-Americans and friends of Haiti the history of Haiti and its contribution to this great country."

Singer, dancer and choreographer **Patrick Lacroix** and his International Dance Theater in a rendition of acclaimed "The Soul of Haiti", described by Lacroix as a "multi-regional musical honoring Haiti's spellbinding culture and its contribution to world peace." Artists **Gilbert Dabady** and **Carline Bruno Hollant** will also perform from their latest CDs which have

attracted an extraordinary amount of praise from the critics and landed them several out of state tours recently.

The proceeds of the event will go toward funding the now Annual May 12 Haitian American Unity Parade, an event that attracted a crowd of more than 5,000 people in the streets of Dorchester.

The event will be MC'd by local storyteller **Charlot Lucien** and a host of local leaders who present awards to HAU's special guests. **Boston Neighborhood Network' TeleKreyol** will assure television coverage with additional print reports by the **Boston Haitian Reporter**.

Tickets are \$60 per person and \$100 per couple. They can be purchased in advance by calling **617-298-2976** or **617-214-2846**.

Learn more about the HAU, this event and the May 12 Haitian American Unity Parade by visiting us at www.HAUINC.ORG.