

◆ Afro-Semitic Experience ◆ to perform on Alfred University ◆s Holmes stage

8/20/09

The Afro-Semitic Experience will perform in Holmes Auditorium, Harder Hall, at Alfred University on Friday, Sept. 4 at 8 p.m. The public is invited to this free performance, which is co-sponsored by the Division of Performing Arts and Hillel at Alfred, which is funding the program. The band is made up of African-American and Jewish-American musicians who are dedicated to preserving, promoting, and expanding the rich cultural and musical heritage of the Jewish and African Diasporas. Since 1997, the co-founders of the group, African-American jazz pianist Warren Byrd, and Jewish-American jazz bassist David Chevan, have been presenting a unique musical program that merges their distinct cultures and heritages and delivers a positive and meaningful message about Black-Jewish relations. The group presents interpretations of music from the rich traditions of the two cultures: gospel, klezmer, nigunim, spirituals, bebop, and swing. In performance, the musicians frame the music, telling stories about what the pieces mean, how they relate to us as individual members of the community, and how they reflect upon the relations between Blacks and Jews. To learn more about Chevan and Byrd's music, visit www.AllAboutJazz.com.