

Hydeus Kiatta Memorial Fund

November 2006 brought the loss of a talented and charismatic jazz vocalist and composer, Hydeus Kiatta, a Monterey County native. Hydeus's family, together with the Monterey Jazz Festival, have set up a Fund in her memory, which will be used to support MJF's youth jazz education programs.

"Hydeus," says her partner LeRoy Downs, "had an enthusiasm for life that manifested through music. Those who knew her were touched by her generous spirit."

In 2007, the Fund will provide scholarships for MJF's Summer Jazz Camp for those students who otherwise could not afford to attend. As the Fund grows, it will be more broadly directed to help support MJF's other youth programs, including the Traveling Clinicians and Latin Jazz Programs and the Honor Vocal Jazz Ensemble.

In early 2006, Hydeus, 34, was diagnosed with colon cancer with metastasis to her liver. Following surgeries and multiple rounds of chemotherapy, her cancer continued with a vengeance. Throughout this journey she maintained an optimistic attitude and looked forward to being well again. Her strength and bravery during that time continues to be an inspiration.

Hydeus was born and raised in Salinas/Monterey. Having graduated from Stevenson High School and San Francisco State University, at the time of her death she was a



graduate student at The Thornton School of Music at the University of Southern California. She was a jazz vocal major with an emphasis on performance and composition. Her mission was to make a pro-

USC," said Ron McCurdy, Chair and Professor of Jazz Studies at USC, "but during that time she was able to establish herself as an accomplished artist, someone who served as a role model for many of our stu-

vals in Monterey, San Francisco, Los Angeles, Denmark, Colorado and Oregon. One of Hydeus' aspirations was to be an arena performer at The Monterey Jazz Festival. In San Francisco and Los Angeles, she taught music lessons to children. She had a passion to enrich the young minds of tomorrow.

"I think this is a great way to honor the memory of such a dynamic and talented jazz vocalist," says MJF's Education Director, Dr. Rob Klevan. "Hydeus was the first vocalist that I had sing with the jazz band at Stevenson School when I was teaching there. She was incredible – a natural performer with a great feel for jazz. It was no surprise to me that she would choose music as a career and focus on singing. I know she would be pleased with this Fund, which is aimed at encouraging young musicians to study jazz. I know her dream was to someday perform at the MJF. Come by the Education Booth during the Festival in September and catch her DVD. She'll be singing!"

Hydeus is survived by her partner, LeRoy Downs of Los Angeles, CA, her parents, Shirley and Tom Kiatta of Salinas, CA, and her sisters and their families, Heather Kiatta, Rick and Cash Satava and Jennifer Kiatta.

To make a contribution to the Fund, make your check payable to Monterey Jazz Festival with memo: The Hydeus Kiatta Fund. Or contribute online at montereyjazzfestival.org.

*I want my life to be inspired.
I want to inspire not for glory but for joy.
Let me use my gifts to bring grace
and beauty to all those I encounter
To bring peace and love into
people's hearts and spirits
To uplift the spirit with beautiful sound
Let my music serve the people,
my brothers and sisters on this earth...*

*Forget me not I plea to you
When I'm gone
I pray my dream lives on
Of a world touched by joyous song.*

Excerpts from Hydeus' journal,
August 2006

found impact in the world by promoting peace and harmony through her music. Hydeus was deeply inspired by the diversity of people and cultures that she experienced during her travels.

"Hydeus was with us for only a short while at

Hydeus epitomized the essence of jazz music. That is, emotions and feelings. She lived everyday to the fullest!"

Hydeus wrote, produced and composed her album "On The Ground I Walk." She toured and performed at clubs and festi-