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Contact: Clinton R. Coleman
Kevin Nash
443-885-3022

MSU's Darin Atwater Recognized on the National Stage

Morgan State University alumnus Darin Atwater has been named to TheGrio's *100: History Makers in the Making*. TheGrio, in partnership with NBC News, released its list of what it calls the next generation of African-American history makers and industry leaders. The 100 honorees selected are all very successful or on a path to success in 10 critical fields that include business, education, sports, science and the environment, media, service and activism, politics, health, pop culture and the arts.

Atwater is founder and conductor of Baltimore-based Soulful Symphony, which he founded in 2000. He is considered a trailblazer for fusing traditional classical music with gospel, jazz, R&B and a dash of hip hop. Soulful Symphony, a 75-member, all African American orchestra, is a regular at the Meyerhoff Symphony Hall. His brainchild has been extraordinarily successful, routinely playing before sold-out audiences of every age, race and culture. Atwater formed a partnership with the Baltimore Symphony Orchestra in 2004 that continues today.

“Being recognized as 100 History Makers in the Making by NBC only reaffirms my commitment to contribute to the landscape of American culture with the highest artistic values,” says Atwater, who attended Morgan State University from 1988 to 1991. “My time at MSU was formative in providing the necessary exposure to a world of music and culture unknown to me at the time. The Morgan community continues to play a large role in my career and is a base to which I return regularly for support and mutual nourishment,” he added.

TheGrio.com is a partner with NBC News and is the first video-centric news community devoted to providing its audience with stories and perspectives that appeal to black America. For more information on TheGrio, or to view the entire list of recipients, visit www.thegrio.com.

Morgan State University, founded in 1867, is a doctoral research professional institution offering more than 60 academic programs leading to bachelor's degrees as well as programs at the master's and doctoral levels. As Maryland's public urban university, Morgan serves a multi-ethnic and multi-racial student body and seeks to ensure that the doors of higher education are opened as wide as possible to as many as possible. For more information on Morgan State University visit www.morgan.edu.

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