

## **MEDIA ADVISORY**

**For Immediate Release:** May 29, 2007

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### **Ida McBeth Kicks Off *Live in the Crossroads* with June 1st Performance** *Free outdoor concert coincides with First Fridays in the Crossroads Arts District*

**What:** *Mid-America Arts Alliance Presents: Live in the Crossroads*

Presented with support from the National Endowment for the Arts, and Muriel McBrien Kauffman Foundation

**When:** Friday, June 1, 2007  
7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.

**Who:** Ida McBeth

Critics have described Ida McBeth as “a jazz singer,” “a blues singer,” “a pop singer” and “a cabaret singer.” Still others have referred to her as “a story teller,” “a professor emeritus of body language,” and “the complete entertainer.” A “song stylist” is the title Ida prefers.

By the age of five, Ida McBeth knew she wanted to be a singer. Born in Kansas City, Kansas, Ida was provided early exposure to a variety of talented vocalists by her mother. These singers included such greats as Nancy Wilson, Arthur Prysock, Nat King Cole, Bill Withers, Gladys Knight and Sarah Vaughan.

Over the years, Ida McBeth has received many honors and awards. In 1984, she was named by the Kansas City-based International Jazz Hall of Fame as both “Best Female Jazz Vocalist” and “Entertainer of the Year.” In 1990 Kansas City Mayor Richard Berkeley awarded her a special proclamation designating April 27, 1990 as “Ida McBeth’s 20th Anniversary Day.” Most recently, Ida’s outstanding achievements have included performing the national anthem for the presidential nomination of Al Gore at the 2000 Democratic National Convention in Los Angeles, Kansas City’s birthday bash at Arrowhead Stadium with Kenny Rogers and Walter Cronkite, as well as performing at the Smithsonian Institute in 2001. Ida was Crowned Queen of the Kansas City, Kansas Blues Street Festival in 2005 and given the key to the city. She was also voted “Best of R&B / Soul” in the Pitch Readers Poll in 2004 and 2005.

**Where:** Across from Mid-America’s headquarters at 2018 Baltimore Avenue, in the Crossroads Arts District.

**Why:** After 30 years in downtown Kansas City, Mid-America Arts Alliance moved to its new location in the Crossroads Arts District. Because Mid-America’s programs include visual and performing arts, **free** concerts are an appropriate addition to First Fridays and an opportunity for Mid-America to celebrate its new home with neighbors, friends, and KC art lovers.

For more information, please visit [www.maaa.org](http://www.maaa.org) or contact Andy Graham, [andy@maaa.org](mailto:andy@maaa.org).