

**STEP AFRIKA! AND BLACK VIOLIN PERFORM TOGETHER
AT TILLES CENTER FEBRUARY 9**

World Premiere Performance

Brookville, NY (January 9) – Two critically-acclaimed groups come together for one night only at Tilles Center for the Performing Arts, in an evening filled with dynamic dance and the ultimate synergy between classical and hip-hop music. Step Afrika!, the first professional company in the world dedicated to the tradition of stepping, and Black Violin, a three-time Apollo-winning duo, will share the stage for the first time Thursday, February 9 at 7pm. Tickets are \$22 and \$17. Pall Corporation is the Principal Sponsor of Dance at Tilles Center.

Founded in December 1994, Step Afrika! is known for its efforts to promote an understanding of and appreciation for stepping and the dance tradition's use as an educational tool for young people worldwide. Stepping is a unique dance tradition created by African American college students in the early 1900s. In stepping, the body is used as an instrument to create intricate rhythms and sounds through a combination of footsteps, claps and spoken word. Stepping comes from a long and rich tradition in African-based communities that use movement, words and sounds to communicate allegiance to a group. Today, stepping can be found in high, middle and elementary schools across the United States well as in churches and community-based organizations. Based in Washington, D.C., Step Afrika! reaches tens of thousands of Americans each year and has performed on many stages in North and South America, Europe, Africa and the Caribbean. The company has been featured on CNN, BET, PBS and NPR as well as in numerous books, documentaries and articles that seek to explore the tradition of stepping. Its signature event, the annual Step Afrika International Cultural Festival in Johannesburg, South Africa, is the fruit of a ten-year collaboration with the Soweto Dance Theatre that unites artists from around the world in dialogue and dance performance. Besides stepping, the evening's program at Tilles Center will also include South African Gumboot and Zulu dance.

Made up of two classically trained violinists and their DJ, Black Violin is redefining the music world, one string at a time. With influences ranging from Shostakovich and Bach to Nas and Jay-Z, violist Will B and violinist Kev Marcus break all the rules, blending the classical with the modern to create something rare -- a sound that nobody has ever heard, but that everybody wants to feel. Awarded the coveted title of Apollo Legend by the esteemed Apollo Theatre in Harlem, Black Violin has worked with musicians as diverse as Mike Shinoda, lead singer of rock act Linkin Park, P. Diddy, Kanye West, Fifty Cent, Aerosmith, Tom Petty, Aretha Franklin and The Eagles, among many others. The group continues to tour far and wide, opening for hip hop mainstays like Fat Joe, Akon and the Wu-Tang Clan in locations as diverse as Prague, Dubai and South Africa. To ensure that urban youth has the benefit of music as they did, Black Violin has embarked upon a campaign of social change, using youth orchestras and music programs to show young people they are capable of expressing themselves in ways they have never dreamed.

Tickets to see Step Afrika! and Black Violin Thursday, February 9 at 7 pm at Tilles Center for the Performing Arts are \$22 and \$17. All ticket prices include a \$2 per ticket facility fee. Tickets are available online at tillescenter.org, or Ticketmaster.com, in person at Tilles Center's box office or by telephone at 516.299.3100 or 1.800.745.3000. The box office is open Monday-Saturday from 1-6 pm. There is a service fee for all tickets purchased online or by phone. There are no refunds or exchanges. For additional information, call 516.299.3100 or visit tillescenter.org. Press photos are available at tillescenter.org/press.

Programs at Tilles Center are supported in part by the New York State Council on the Arts. Long Island University's Tilles Center for the Performing Arts is located on the C.W. Post Campus, Route 25A in Brookville. ###

PRESS RELEASE

Information and Tickets
516.299.3100
tillescenter.org
800.745.3000
ticketmaster.com

Media Contact
Vanessa Kellogg
516.299.3341
vanessa.kellogg@liu.edu