

NEW CD RELEASE storytime

About Friends

I have always had the good fortune to work with talented musicians, and for many years, *Friends* was a varying collection of musicians depending on the event. Now *Friends* has names and faces people recognize.

" People ask me all the time where did I get this band, and to tell you the truth, I sometimes wonder

I've had a long-standing musical relationship with Arthur Lisi, the band's musical director, and he has a long and distinguished musical career: working with the likes of Van Morrison and writing the music for Bill Cosby's hit show. We've been working together for more than 20 years now, and he knows me inside and out musically.

Musicians in the current band *Friends* came to me from all over the place: Many were referred to me by my patients, and some by co-workers. Arthur and I would have a listen and invite them to try it out. So sometime about 7 years ago a core group of these folks started playing together whenever we had a show to do. Those folks in-



On April 15th, 2006, vocalist **Cleve Francis** and his friends appeared at the Birchmere Music Hall in Alexandria, Virginia. Following a rousing intro by author Kwame Alexander, Cleve Francis and his friends delivered a most memorable performance. They covered music genre of stories ranging from Country, Folk, Blues, Reggae and Jazz. Great shows are the result of the collaboration of great songs and great musicians.

For two hours, the group performed classic songs of about loving, dancing, tearing and laughing. The band delivered a flawless performance. Cleve Francis' performance and vocal range places him in a category of great vocalist with the ability to tell any music story in a believable fashion. This is truly a special musical project that must be part of your musical collection. Many of you were at the performance and will get a chance to experience it again. Those who missed it can enjoy it for the first time.

This 2-CD music project (complete first and second sets performed) is available online at www.clevefrancis.com. While there, please register your email address so you can be informed of future performances.

This CD will make an excellent holiday gift for friends and loved ones.

Next **Cleve Francis and Friends** performance: **The Birchmere**, April 7, 2007, 7:30 pm (3701 Mt. Vernon Ave., Alexandria, VA 22204, 703-549-7500), check www.birchmere.com for ticket information.

clude Eric Northern (drums), John Georgiou (acoustic guitar), Myron Prosser (fiddle), Gary Green (harmonica), Larry Boddie (percussion), Darci Vanderhoff (background vocals). Other players who joined later are now

part of the whole sound: Bryan Fox (bass), Bruce Middle (electric guitar), Rob Holmes (sax), Terrance McLeod (background vocals) and David Bendahan (cello). We're a big band and everyone contributes to our sound;

It can play anything I ask it to: country, blues, jazz, reggae, you name it. It's very versatile, in fact, it continually asks me to try new things, too. Now after 7 years, when I say *Cleve Francis and Friends*, I mean it. --Cleve Francis