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**Poet George Edward Tait Gives Free Reading
at the Downtown Bronx Cafe on August 2nd**

(Bronx – July 20, 2006) Poet George Edward Tait will give a free reading of his work at the Downtown Bronx Bar & Café at 7:30pm on August 2nd. His reading is a segment of that evening's Bronx Culture Trolley, a free program of the Bronx Council on the Arts (BCA). The Downtown Bronx Bar & Café is located at 141 East 149th Street (at Walton Avenue), just one block west of the Grand Concourse. Take the #2, #4 or #5 trains to Grand Concourse & 149th Street.

George Edward Tait is a multi-talented musician, educator, and activist who has performed his poetry thousands of times for over a quarter century in a variety of venues, including colleges, community centers, correctional institutions, libraries, and theaters. Also known as The Poet Laureate of Harlem, George utilizes his genius as a weapon of culture and a tool of liberation. Born in Oakland and raised in Harlem, he graduated from Pace University in 1968 with a B.A. in English Language and Literature and a minor in French Language and Literature.



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Over the years, he has taught and tutored English at Queens College and conducted a number of creative writing workshops. Defining music as the poetry of sound, Tait became a bandleader in 1972 and spearheaded a group called Black Massical Music in 1975. Tait founded The Society of Afrikan Poets and produced a seven year series of weekly poetry readings entitled "Black Words for a Wednesday Night." His first volume of poetry *At War* was published in 1983, the same year he was named The Poet Laureate of Afrikan Nationalism by leaders of the nationalist community -- a title he still holds today.

He was a 2001 contributor to the anthology *Bum Rush The Page: A Def Poetry Jam*, and in 2003, his chapbook *The Baker's Dozen: Selected Dance Poetry of George Edward Tait* was published. Tait insists that the poet must be historian, journalist, and prophet. As such, he has incorporated these three aspects in a soon-to-be published metaphysical opus entitled *Sunsight: Contemporary Patterns of Cosmic Phenomena*. 2006 will also mark the completion of his monumental trilogy, *Swordsongs: Selected Poetry of George Edward Tait*, which commenced with *At War* and continued with *At Arms*.

Literary Readings at the Downtown Bronx Bar & Café take place on the first Wednesday of each month (except September and January) and are presented by BCA's Bronx Writers' Center. For more information on the August 2nd reading by George Edward Tait or on the Bronx Writers' Center, please contact Ron Kavanaugh at 718-409-1265 or ron@bronxarts.org. For information on all of the evening's Bronx Culture Trolley attractions, contact Phil Cardone at the Bronx Council on the Arts at 718-931-9500 x33 or phil@bronxarts.org. You can also visit BCA's website at www.bronxarts.org for information on the Bronx Writers' Center, the evening's Bronx Culture Trolley attractions, and the many other programs and activities of the Bronx Council on the Arts.

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