

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE - Ontario, Feb 6, 2006

Internationally acclaimed jazz trumpeter **BROWNMAN** returns to Brampton to perform with Chinguacousy students.

2006 Canadian National Jazz Award Nominee for "Latin-jazz Artist of the Year" & 2005 NOW Magazine "Jazz Artist of the Year"

Thurs March 9th – 7:00pm

\$10.00 at the door or call 905-791-2400 ext. 232

Chinguacousy Secondary School, 1370 Williams Parkway, Brampton, Ontario

Chinguacousy Secondary School is proud to welcome former Brampton resident Nick "Brownman" Ali back to town to perform as the featured guest soloist at the school's annual JAZZ NITE. Multiple ensembles will also be performing compositions by this highly acclaimed composer/trumpeter through the evening.

Back when MusicFest Canada would rank performances of the country's high school music programmes, Chinguacousy Secondary School would consistently appear in the top three schools in the jazz categories. In the mid 1980's, Ching enjoyed a heyday as one of the premiere jazz schools in the nation, winning a host of awards and accolades and often sweeping the MusicFest awards. Fascinated by Ching's prowess, a young Trinidadian-born trumpet player - attending school on the other side of town - would spend much of his youth making the cross-town trek to take in Ching's phenomenal performances. So frequent were his visits that many of his high school peers would be from Ching rather than his own school, and his own reputation as a promising young jazz trumpeter grew. So much so that the formation of a Peel Region Honour Band – handpicked by Board of Education music teachers – would see the young Brownman teamed with many impressive Ching musicians of yesteryear.

Now, years later, long after leaving Brampton for New York City, he has numerous high profile accomplishments on both national and international stages and is heralded by New York City's *Village Voice* as "**Canada's preeminent jazz trumpet player**". Currently based in Toronto, he is one of the most decorated jazz performers in Canada and widely considered one of the country's most unique and intrepid jazz figures. The recipient of an impressive array of awards and distinctions, he was nominated most recently for a **2006 National Jazz Award** for "**Latin-jazz Artist of the Year**." He tirelessly leads no less than 6 eclectic ensembles, each mixing jazz with modern musical forms – an approach often compared to the ground-breaking work of Miles Davis. As a musical director and/or featured soloist, he has appeared in countless groups – testament to his diversity making him a top call for the country's leading Latin, Urban and jazz artists. With close to 150 recording credits to his name in styles ranging from be-bop to hip-hop, he can be found on many Juno-nominated recordings. As a leader, his unique Latin-jazz-urban ensemble **CRUZAO** – winner of numerous awards, including the Montreal Jazz Festival's coveted "**Grand Prix du Jazz Award**" (which led to Brownman being signed to the prestigious Justin Time Records label in Montreal) – is widely regarded as Canada's premiere Latin-jazz ensemble. Randy Brecker – legendary, multiple Grammy Award-winning trumpeter and NYC mentor to Brownman – has described him as "**one of the great new voices in jazz improvisation today.**"

Brownman's close ties with Ching teachers and students have carried forth to this very day. On Thursday, March 9th at 7:00pm, the circle will be complete when he returns to Chinguacousy as the featured guest artist for a very special edition of the school's annual **JAZZ NITE**. Selected compositions that earned Brownman a National Jazz Award for "**Composer of the Year**" (2002) will be performed by various ensembles throughout the evening. Past and present will meet with lively, energetic and adventurous results in this triumphant return of a hometown boy made good.

"Having Brownman return to our school and play with the students will be an experience they will never forget," says Mark Vining, music teacher at Chinguacousy. *"It is a privilege for our students to play with a musician of Brownman's stature. Our hope – as teachers – is that seeing such luminaries as Brownman perform live will inspire the students to continue to participate in musical activities both in school and throughout their lives."*

Note to media: Brownman will be rehearsing with the band at Chinguacousy on Mar. 7 and will be available for interviews. Brownman & all band members have consented to be photographed by the media.

Media contact: Mark Vining, Music Teacher, Chinguacousy S.S., 905-791-2400, ext. 232