



North  
Cross  
School

**For Immediate Release**

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## **International Night**

*Celebrating International Fare and Music at North Cross School*

**ROANOKE, VA (April 25th, 2013)**— Bukuru Celestin is a refugee from Burundi who treated his North Cross audience to a joyfully upbeat night of original Afro-beat Gospel songs with his sisters. Celestin developed his music at the Jefferson Center's Music Lab. He arrived in Roanoke in 2008 and, because of the support received from the Jefferson Center's programs, has been able to develop his music to the point of releasing his first CD this summer.

"My sisters and I have been singing together our entire lives and we are thankful that we can continue to do that here," Celestin said. "We sing songs of praise, thanksgiving, and of prayers for peace for Africa, which now has many wars happening." Celestin has already given proceeds from his iTunes release to aid the victims of Japan's earthquake. He hopes to do more with his new CD and future artistic endeavors.

Dylan Locke, who is the Jefferson Center's Artistic Director, helps emerging artists like Celestin in the Music Lab. He was be part of the band that supported Celestin along with Carter Wilson, a student active in the Music Lab and spoke about Celestin's compositions and his support of their music. He said, "What I get to experience touches mel. Even though they sing words that I often do not understand, I feel the power of their message in their music, their harmonies, and their voices. I am so glad Bukuru decided to bring his country's traditional music to us and is deepening it as he learns more and shares more. He is a natural talent."

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### **About North Cross School**

*North Cross School is a college-preparatory day school grounded in a strong liberal arts and science curriculum combined with exceptional co-curricular programs. The academic program, from junior kindergarten through twelfth grade, prepares students to become responsible, successful citizens by encouraging them to explore their interests and develop their talents. The School is located at 4254 Colonial Avenue, Roanoke, VA, 24018. For more information, visit [www.northcross.org](http://www.northcross.org).*