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**From Soulsville to Italy**

In the summer of 2006, fourteen Stax Music Academy students and a group of faculty members embarked on the first ever Stax Music Academy Summer Tour Presented by FedEx. One of the highlights of the tour featured the young musicians opening the festivities for the 19th annual Porretta Soul Festival in Porretta Terme, Italy. WKNO/Memphis presents **The Stax Music Academy: From Soulsville to Italy**, airing (date/time) on (station).

The original Stax Records left a legacy in Memphis and around the globe that would make for an interesting story in itself. As the label that created southern soul music, Stax launched the careers of the likes of Isaac Hayes, Otis Redding, Booker T. & The MGs, the Staple Singers, and dozens of other icons during the 1960s and 1970s. However it was the future, not the past, that WKNO producer Pierre Kimsey decided to capture in this hour-long documentary.

Kimsey and his crew got the opportunity of a lifetime to travel and experience the trials and triumphs of a group of talented youths who are carrying on the legacy that those before them worked so hard to create. During their travels, he was also able to form a bond with the students and get to know them personally and discover what makes each of them unique.

“You could see certain lessons from that tour that would stay with them for the rest of their lives,” said Kimsey. “All of them came back to the States with a lot more confidence than when they left.”

As part of the Stax Music Academy, a non-profit organization that provides primarily at-risk inner city youths with the training and technology to make music, these students, as well as many others, are learning to utilize their talents to recreate the sound that made Stax Records famous decades ago and Memphians and people throughout the world still hold close to their hearts today. The Stax Music Academy, located adjacent to the Stax Museum of American Soul Music at the original site of Stax Records in Memphis, Tennessee, was featured recently in the PBS **Great Performances** documentary **“Respect Yourself: The Stax Records Story”** as the catalyst through which the legacy of Stax is being carried into the future today.

WKNO is a non-profit, private foundation serving the Mid-South for more than 50 years. An important community resource, WKNO uses the power of non-commercial public broadcasting to provide the Mid-South with quality educational and cultural programs that inform, entertain, and inspire.

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