

## Thousands of One

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A band born to change society through music, Thousands of One core members' first gig was in a maximum-security youth prison. At one point, Jhakeem Haltom, lead singer, gave the mic to one of the inmates who let his voice be heard. It was a soul defining moment for the band.

Conscious music, revolution sounds, liberation time!

Something deep happens when dedication to social change meets the burning desire to make amazing music. We give thanks for being alive! We give thanks that we can travel this beautiful road! We give thanks for a million things, and do our human best to put it into music.

This is the essence of Thousands of One - to build connections between people and live inspired lives, striving to bring that inspiration into the world around us.

Thousands of One have released their second CD "SoulForce" on Ithaca, NY's cooperative record label I-Town Records. Featuring a vocal collaboration with SPEECH of the Grammy-award winning group Arrested Development and production and performances by Elliot Martin of John Brown's Body, *SoulForce* captures the spirit and energy of the band's live performances while adding a subtle layer of space age sound and rhythm. The result is a work of art that explores a new musical identity—a defining statement from a group whose sole purpose in creating music is to reflect the process of social improvement by starting from within, hence the title *SoulForce*.

Collaboration with Speech from Arrested Development began at the 2007 Grassroots Festival of Music and Dance, where the band met Speech and shared their love of promoting cultural unity, ending racism and imperialism, and working with youth through the creation of socially conscious, uplifting music. Speech says of working with Thousands of One, "I love supporting people who are doing good works. You're doing good things ... Let's be family."

In the spirit of rebel rock reggae and the "Funk Movement," Thousands of One knows that music can move mountains. The message of Thousands of One is a call to end racism, to grow food locally, and create unity. Turning heads with intense lyrics, incendiary politics, spiritual tenacity, wit and dope phrasing - the soul and voice of Jhakeem Haltom bolstered by a rocking and raw band cutting a deep original groove that pays tribute to soul, funk and reggae, Thousands of One mashes all these rooted influences in a bombastic fusion of strikingly original music. A freight train whose driver could be called at any given moment Hiphop, gospel, electronica, afrobeat, rock or dub. Thunderous drums and bass boom the bottom end to crack the walls. Joel Blizzard

plays drums as a heart beats - dynamic, consistent, and reverent. Brent Eva has reinvented the art of bass playing to his liking, thus creating an authentic and crushing groove to the low end. The stellar saxophone performances of Mark Wienand have actually given rise to sudden gusts of wind, leaving the crowds in wonderment. Guitar player Safak Ozkan, born and raised in Turkey, spent his youth playing in a rebel rock band, as well as playing the Oud (a traditional middle eastern stringed instrument). Safak has brought an incredible psychedelic vibe to the crew as they venture into new fields of sound. The maestro of the boards, Chad Lieberman, recently signed on with the Thousands of One orchestra, bending notions of melody and rhythm into completely new forms. Chad is the opposite of a fireman: He lights 'em! Joining the crew on most occasions is Will Sapp singing backup vocals, percussion and sax - bringing the roots vibes! Lead vocalist Jhakeem Haltom can turn a phrase whether singing falsetto a la Marvin Gaye, spitting verse like KRS-One, or channeling like Nusrat Fateh Ali Khan. He has been easily compared to Stevie Wonder, Steely Dan's Donald Fagen, Talib Kweli and none other than Bob Marley.

Thousands of One has made 4 national tours in 2 years that all hit the west coast. They flew to Hawaii in 2006 for 8 incredible concerts that are still in the memories of fans who, to this day, request a return trip. Thousands of One recently began a national radio campaign with the album "SoulForce", through the work of the Planetary Group, catching the attention of hundreds of radio stations throughout the United States.

All agree that seeing Thousands of One perform live is where it's at, though they say it isn't about "seeing" the band... When you attend a Thousands of One concert, it's more like "being" the band.