

The Creative Forces Behind the Duke Ellington Jazz Festival Are Recognized by Alvin Ailey Dance and The Grammy Awards

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Lineup for 4th Annual Festival October 1-7, 2008, To Be
Announced April 26 in Celebration of Duke's Birthday

Charles Fishman, Founder & Executive Director, Duke Ellington Jazz Festival (DEJF)

This Friday, February 22, and Saturday, February 23, at the Kennedy Center in Washington, DC, Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater features composer Charles Fishman in its piece, "Winter in Lisbon." Fishman's music comprises the first of the four movements in the piece which is dedicated to jazz legend, Dizzy Gillespie and is named for the 1990 foreign film which Gillespie scored and starred in. A resident of Washington, DC, for over 30 years, Fishman was Gillespie's personal manager and producer and provided the theme music for the film. Judith Jamison, Artistic Director for Alvin Ailey, commissioned the piece in honor of Gillespie's 75th birthday. Now restaged by Ailey Associate Artistic Director, Masazumi Chaya, it is one of the dance company's most popular pieces in its repertoire. It was last performed in 2006.

Paquito D'Rivera, Artistic Director, DEJF

On February 10, Paquito D'Rivera received his 9th Grammy Award for his 2007 recording, *Funk Tango*, which was voted the "Best Latin Jazz Album." Artistic Director of DEJF since it began in 2005, D'Rivera is one of the most awarded and beloved jazz artists performing today. He was presented the National Medal for the Arts by President George W. Bush at The White House and was named one of the 2005 National Endowment for the Arts Jazz Masters. In 2007 he was honored as a Living Jazz Legend in a ceremony at The Kennedy Center in Washington, DC. This past January, he was presented with the Presidents Award by the International Association for Jazz Education in Toronto. Born in Cuba, D'Rivera is much admired for his ability to effortlessly cross cultural borders of music – jazz, Latin and classical in particular – and to mentor young musicians.

DEJF Overview and Announcement of Lineup for 2008

The DEJF has become a highly anticipated event in the nation's capital for its impressive mix of local, national and international artists and its presentation of over 100 programs and performances at diverse venues in different neighborhoods of Washington, DC. A hallmark of the DEJF is the all-day free concert on the National Mall, which last year attracted more than 25,000 people. The DEJF's mission is to expose the broadest demographic to jazz; use jazz as a form of arts education; honor jazz greats; and add to the city's rich jazz history by entertaining thousands with local and world-class jazz talent. The announcement of 2008's lineup for October 1-7 will be publicly announced at an event on April 26 to celebrate Jazz Appreciation Month and to honor Duke Ellington's birthday.

www.DEJAZZFEST.org