

THE 5TH ANNIVERSARY
DUKE ELLINGTON
WASHINGTON, D.C. | **JAZZ FESTIVAL**



5th Anniversary Duke Ellington Jazz Festival June 5-15 Celebrates New Orleans with Ellis, Branford and Delfeayo Marsalis, Terence Blanchard, Irma Thomas, Buckwheat Zydeco, Rebirth Brass Band, Nicholas Payton, and Harry Connick, Jr.

Festival Permanently Moves to June and Expands to 11 Days with Three Days on The National Mall

Washington, DC – February 12, 2009 -- Having recently presented jazz for a private pre-inaugural dinner for President and Mrs. Obama and their family and friends, Duke Ellington Jazz Festival (DEJF) Executive Producer Charles Fishman is Turning his full attention back to this year's annual festival, the music event that has put Washington, DC, on the international jazz map. He and Sunny Sumter, DEJF's Managing Director, have announced big plans for this year's fifth anniversary, which will feature a spectacular celebration of New Orleans.



**CELEBRATING
NEW ORLEANS**

Thomas Hale Boggs, Jr.
Honorary Co-Chairman

Walter Isaacson
Honorary Co-Chairman

Marc H. Morial
Honorary Co-Chairman

Sheila C. Johnson
*Honorary Chairman of
the Ovation Society*

Claude E. Bailey
Chairman of the Board

Charles Fishman
Executive Producer

Sunny Sumter
Managing Director

Paquito D'Rivera
Artistic Adviser

Says Fishman, "We're excited to pay tribute to the unique, rich and diverse musical heritage of New Orleans. We'll offer three free special performances on The National Mall this year, which will kick off Friday, June 12, 2009, with an evening performance by Grammy Award-winner Terence Blanchard and be followed by two all-day extravaganzas. And we'll honor New Orleans' own musical treasure, pianist/composer/educator Ellis Marsalis, at our annual Jazz Masters concert presented at and in conjunction with the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts."

Adds Sumter, who also directs the festival's education program, "We've expanded the festival to 11 days from seven days last year, which enables us to include more free and community-based programs, such as two *Jazz 'n Families Fun Days* at the Phillips Collection. And we've moved the festival permanently to June to have broader appeal to residents and tourists alike, who usually have more flexible schedules in the summer and whose children will be out of school."

The DEJF will present over 100 programs in almost 50 venues, bringing jazz to every part of the city and to every level of fan from young to old, artist to student, resident to tourist. *For schedule and ticket information, visit www.dejazzfest.org.*

2009 DEJF Festival: Celebrating New Orleans – Artists Include:

Paquito D'Rivera, *DEJF Artistic Advisor*
Harry Connick, Jr
Duke Ellington Orchestra
Branford Marsalis
Ellis Marsalis
Nicholas Payton
Irma Thomas

Terence Blanchard & Orchestra
Davell Crawford
Little Freddie King
Delfeayo Marsalis
Jason Marsalis
Rebirth Brass Band
Buckwheat Zydeco

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2009 DEJF Festival: Celebrating New Orleans – Day by Day Highlights
Include:

(Further program details to follow)

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| June 5 | Jazz in the Sculpture Garden * National Gallery of Art |
| June 5-15 | Jazz in the 'Hoods * Evening shows in clubs and hotels around the city |
| June 6- 7 | Jazz 'n Families Fun Day – 2 free days of music & activities
*Phillips Collection |
| June 8-15 | Kennedy Center Millennium Stage concerts |
| June 10 | Opening concert |
| June 11 | Voice of America concert with Paquito D'Rivera and special guests |
| June 12 | Jazz on The Mall: Terence Blanchard & Orchestra "A Tale of God's Will: A Requiem for Katrina" |
| June 13 | Jazz on The Mall with Rebirth Brass Band, Duke Ellington Orchestra & more |
| June 14 | Jazz on The Mall with Irma Thomas, Nicholas Payton, Buckwheat Zydeco & more |
| June 15 | Ellis Marsalis Tribute Concert at the Kennedy Center Featuring Branford, Delfeayo and Jason Marsalis; Harry Connick, Jr; 15-piece big band & more |

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DUKE ELLINGTON JAZZ FESTIVAL. The DEJF, the largest music festival in Washington, DC, is a highly anticipated cultural event in the nation's capital. It has received widespread praise for its impressive mix of local, nationally and internationally-known artists and its presentation of over 100 programs and performances at diverse venues in different neighborhoods of Washington, DC. Signature events at the DEJF include free, all-day concerts on the National Mall, which last year attracted more than 40,000 people. The DEJF's mission is to provide enriching and entertaining programs that attract the broadest possible demographic to jazz; use jazz as a form of arts education; honor DC's own Duke Ellington and other jazz greats; and add to the city's rich jazz history, further enhancing the nation's capital city as a premier cultural destination.

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