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Jana La Sorte
347.726.8325 /jana@janlynpr.com

Duke Ellington Jazz Festival Hosts Duke Ellington Birthday Concert at Lincoln Theatre April 26 to Honor DC Jazz and Raise Funds for Education Efforts

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Part of Jazz Appreciation Month, Concert Previews 2008 Festival Lineup for October 1-7 and Gives Audience First Access to Tickets On-Sale May 1

April is Jazz Appreciation Month, making it the perfect time for jazz fans to learn about the great jazz happening in Washington, DC. The Duke Ellington Jazz Festival (DEJF) kicks off its fall festival countdown on April 26 with its annual concert at Lincoln Theatre celebrating Duke Ellington's birthday (April 29), Ella Fitzgerald's birthday (April 25) and saluting the great jazz of Washington, DC.

At the concert, DEJF Founder/Executive Producer, Charlie Fishman, will announce the 2008 festival lineup for October 1-7 and festival tickets will be on sale to the Lincoln Theatre audience prior to the public on-sale ticket date of May 1. In addition, \$5 of the \$20 concert admission fee will be designated to the Duke Ellington Jazz Festival Education Fund to support the organization's education efforts.

Part of the DEJF's mission is to honor DC's phenomenal native jazz legend, Duke Ellington, and to recognize the city's rich jazz talent. The Duke Ellington birthday concert at 8pm on April 26 accomplishes both. Called "Duke, Ella & Beyond," this year's concert will also toast "The First Lady of Song," Ella Fitzgerald. The concert presents some of Washington, DC's, finest jazz musicians.

Jam on U All-Stars

Bobby Felder, *Musical Director/Conductor*
Nasar Abadey
George Botts
Buck Hill
Steve Novosel
Antonio Parker
Michael Thomas
Debra Tidwell
Larry Willis

Will Smith & the W.E.S. Group

*Special Guest: actress/vocalist, Cynda Williams ("Mo' Better Blues," "One False Move")

The DC Bass Choir

Herman Burney, Jr, Steve Novosel, and Victor Dvoskin

Tickets Information. Tickets to "Duke, Ella & Beyond" are available at the Lincoln Theatre box office at 1215 U Street, NW; which is open Monday through Friday from 10-6pm. Tickets are also available through Lincoln Theatre by phone (202) 328.6000 or at Ticketmaster outlets via www.Ticketmaster.com or by phone (202) 397.SEAT (7328). General admission tickets are \$20.

Special Jazz Appreciation Month Bonus. *Get one complimentary drink at Bohemian Caverns or Twins Jazz Club after the concert by giving your concert ticket stub to your server. Valid through April 30, 2008.*

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DUKE ELLINGTON JAZZ FESTIVAL. The DEJF is 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 DC's own Duke Ellington and other jazz greats; and add to the city's rich jazz history by entertaining thousands with local and world-class jazz talent. **www.DEJAZZFEST.ORG**

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