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For Immediate Release

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DC JAZZ FESTIVAL ELECTS NEW CHAIR

DC's Annual Jazz Festival to Benefit from Experienced Leadership

WASHINGTON, DC, (January 12, 2010) – Festivals DC, Ltd and the DC Jazz Festival today announced that Michael Sonnenreich has unanimously been elected by the Board of Directors to serve as the organization's new chairman. The DC Jazz Festival, formerly the Duke Ellington Jazz Festival, is one the country's fastest growing music events and is already the largest music festival in Washington, D.C.—with more than 100 performances at nearly 50 venues throughout the city. The DC Jazz Festival recently changed its name to better reflect the Festival's identity, location, and expanded ambition. The festival will reinforce the city's reputation as one of the world's most prominent tourist and special events destinations.

When asked about the distinction, Mr. Sonnenreich explained, "The DC Jazz Festival is one of the premier music events in Washington DC and has the ability to pull all Washingtonians together to listen to authentic, commonly understood American music."

Sonnenreich will lead the DC Jazz Festival into the next phase of its long term goals, with a vetted history of involvements with many non-profit institutions such as the Smithsonian Institution, the Washington National Opera (president 1996-98; 2002-2006), Sackler/Freer Galleries of Art (Smithsonian Institution), DC Commission on the Arts and Humanities (commissioner 2008-present), the New England Conservatory of Music, the North Carolina Museum of Art Foundation, the University of Virginia Art Museum and the Richard Tucker Music Foundation, among others. Sonnenreich currently serves as chairman and CEO of Kikaku America International and is president and CEO of Glocal Communications Corp. Ltd. of London. He is also vice chairman of the Board of PharMa International Corporation of Tokyo.

Other officers elected to serve include Michelle Galler, as vice chairman, and Conrad Kenley, as treasurer. The new officers join executive producer Charles Fishman, who has served in this capacity since the inaugural festival in 2005.

"Over the past five years, the DC Jazz Festival has focused on expanding its programming and partners, as well as its stature and impact, all for the benefit of the city," said Fishman. "As we move into our sixth year and plan future festivals, Michael will play an instrumental role in leading this organization's efforts to take the festival to a new level."

The sixth annual DC Jazz Festival will be presented throughout Washington, D.C., June 1 – 13, 2010. For more information about the DC Jazz Festival, visit www.dcjazzfest.org.