

# THE CHICAGO | JAZZ | ENSEMBLE

in residence at Columbia College Chicago since 1965

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### THE CHICAGO JAZZ ENSEMBLE WITH MUSIC DIRECTOR DANA HALL CELEBRATES THE MUSIC OF NEW ORLEANS WITH SPECIAL GUESTS NOVEMBER 18

**CHICAGO, IL, October 18, 2010** – The **Chicago Jazz Ensemble** with Music Director **Dana Hall** launches its *2010-2011 Performance Season*, ranging from music from New Orleans to a program dedicated to Ella Fitzgerald and Sarah Vaughan to a 100<sup>th</sup> birthday celebration to honor Mahalia Jackson.

This season kicks off with *New Orleans Now* on Thursday, November 18, at 7:30pm at the Harris Theater for Music and Dance. Featuring dynamic funk drummer Stanton Moore (founding member of Galactic and a prodigious solo artist), alto saxophonist Donald Harrison (“The King of Nouveau Swing”), and pianist **Henry Butler** (an eight-time W.C. Handy “Best Blues Instrumentalist–Piano” award nominee), this program celebrates the sound and spirit of a city where creativity is matched only by extraordinary resilience, exploring the various trajectories of the New Orleans tradition – from blues and swing to funk – with some of its best contemporary musicians.

The program will feature large ensemble configurations in addition to small group arrangements of famed New Orleanians such as **Louis Prima**, **King Oliver**, **Jelly Roll Morton**, and **the Meters**, performed with the special guests. Also featured are selections from **Duke Ellington's** "New Orleans Suite" and Ellington favorite "The Mooche" and vocal selections featuring **Bobbi Wilsyn** and **Henry Butler**.

Verve recording artist and legendary funk **drummer Stanton Moore** is a founder of the New Orleans-based funk band Galactic, whose latest record *Ya-ka-may* was released in February. In April, he released his 12-track set *Groove Alchemy*, a multimedia project exploring the roots of funk drumming by examining the work of the musical pioneers of 20th century New Orleans. Moore performs around the world with an ever-evolving cast of musicians including John Scofield, Karl Denson, George Porter Jr. and Leo Nocentelli (of the Meters), Charlie Hunter, Warren Haynes, John Medeski and Chris Wood (of Medeski, Martin and Wood), Donald Harrison Jr., Dr. Lonnie Smith, Dr. John, Tab Benoit, Robert Walter, the New Orleans Klezmer All-Stars, and the Preservation Hall Jazz Band.

An eight-time W.C. Handy "Best Blues Instrumentalist–Piano" award nominee, **pianist Henry Butler** is a self-proclaimed ambassador of New Orleans music and a local legend thereof. Though blinded by glaucoma since birth, Butler has played the piano since the age of six and has become a master of musical diversity, combining the percussive jazz piano playing of McCoy Tyner and the New Orleans style playing of Professor Longhair through his classically trained wizardry. He offers a rich amalgam of jazz, Caribbean, classical, pop, blues and R&B influences, and his music is as excitingly eclectic as that of his New Orleans birthplace.

**Alto saxophonist Donald Harrison** is considered the originator of the Nouveau Swing style, which merges acoustic swing with modern R&B, second-line, hip-hop, and reggae rhythms. An Art Blakey alumnus, Harrison has enjoyed a career of performances with a variety of world-class talents including Lena Horne, Spike Lee, Latin jazz giant Eddie Palmieri, and hip-hop groups Jazzmatazz, The Notorius BIG, and Digable Planets. Most recently he has performed with his own groups as well as The Head Hunters, Jennifer

Holiday, Larry Coryell, and The Art of Four with Billy Cobham, Ron Carter, and James Williams. Harrison's diverse experience fuels his dynamic sound, which ranges from traditional New Orleans to swing, bop, post-bop, modern, smooth, avant-garde, and beyond.

As part of their celebration of the music and vitality of New Orleans, the CJE and their guests welcome the **Gulf Restoration Network**. New Orleans native Stanton Moore is an active spokesperson for the Gulf Restoration Network, which in July launched a nation-wide awareness campaign in collaboration with the Gulf Coast Fund to promote the need for coastal restoration and the health of the Gulf Coast and the people who live there. More information at <http://healthygulf.org>.

As the 2010-11 season continues, **The Great Summit: The Music of Louis Armstrong and Duke Ellington** will be presented on Thursday, January 20, at 7:30pm at the Harris Theater for Dance and Music. The Chicago Jazz Ensemble performs Ellington and Armstrong favorites from the CJE's library. **Jon Faddis** will join the band as special guest conductor for this performance.

Friday, February 18, at 7:30pm at the Harris Theater for Music and Dance the CJE presents a celebration of *Ella Fitzgerald and Sarah Vaughan*. Fresh from her tour of Japan with the Count Basie Big Band, the CJE welcomes two-time Grammy nominee and Verve Music Group recording artist, Ledisi, as a very special guest vocalist.

The Chicago Jazz Ensemble concludes its 2010-11 season with a program as part of Jazz at Symphony Center on Friday, May 20, at 8pm when we honor one of Chicago's greatest musical artists, **Mahalia Jackson**, in the year of what would have been her 100<sup>th</sup> birthday. The CJE welcomes Jon Faddis as special guest conductor.

The Chicago Jazz Ensemble is: **DANA HALL** Music Director & drums; alto saxophones, **DAN NICHOLSON** and **JARRARD HARRIS**; tenor saxophones, **PAT MALLINGER** and **ROB DENTY** (also clarinet); baritone saxophone, **TIM McNAMARA**; trombones, **ANDY BAKER**, **TIM COFFMAN**, **TRACY KIRK**, and **THOMAS MATTA**; trumpets, **MARK OLEN**, **LARRY BOWEN**, **ART HOYLE** and **PHAREZ WHITTED**; piano, **JEREMY KAHN**; guitar, **JEFF PARKER**; bass, **DAN ANDERSON**; vocals, **BOBBI WILSYN**.

Season Tickets are available. Attend all three shows for as little as \$40. Discounts available for 2 pack (25%) and full season (30%). In addition to discounts, season ticket benefits include preferred seating, cost savings on handling fees, and invitations to attend Open Rehearsals. All season ticket packages must be purchased by phone. Please call (312) 334-7777. More information about season ticket benefits is available at [www.chicagोजazzensemble.com](http://www.chicagोजazzensemble.com).

Single show tickets for the Chicago Jazz Ensemble at the Harris Theater for Music and Dance, located at 205 East Randolph on the northeast corner of Chicago's Millennium Park, are \$15 - \$45, with discounts for senior citizens and groups. student tickets are \$5. Tickets can be purchased at (312) 334-7777 or [www.harristheaterchicago.com](http://www.harristheaterchicago.com). To purchase tickets to the Symphony Center performance on May 20<sup>th</sup>, please call (312) 294-3000 or go to [www.cso.org](http://www.cso.org).

The CJE, in residence at Columbia College Chicago since 1965, is sponsored in part by *Downbeat*, MacArthur Fund for Arts & Culture at Prince, Illinois Arts Council, The Chicago Community Trust, Polk Bros Foundation, Louis Armstrong Educational Foundation, The Robert Pritzker Family Foundation and media sponsor WDCB/90.9 FM. Log on to [www.chicagोजazzensemble.com](http://www.chicagोजazzensemble.com) for more information on the 2010-2011 performance season or call (312) 369-6270.

For more information on Columbia College Chicago, visit [www.colum.edu](http://www.colum.edu).