

# THE CHICAGO | JAZZ | ENSEMBLE

in residence at Columbia College Chicago since 1965

For Immediate Release / August 18, 2011

Press Contact: Laura Paisley / (312) 369-6250 / [lpaisley@colum.edu](mailto:lpaisley@colum.edu)

Digital Images Available

## **THE CHICAGO JAZZ ENSEMBLE INTRODUCES A NEW SMALL ENSEMBLE CONCERT SERIES, ITS 2011-12 LISTENING SESSION PROGRAMS, AND LALPC 2012 ARTIST-IN-RESIDENCE WYCLIFFE GORDON**

CHICAGO, IL - The [Chicago Jazz Ensemble](#) (CJE) with Artistic Director [Dana Hall](#) will augment its 2011-12 mainstage performance season at Millennium Park and the Harris Theater for Music and Dance with the inaugural **Small Ensemble Concert** series and signature **Listening Session** series featuring Dana Hall and special guest musicians. The CJE is also pleased to announce [Wycliffe Gordon](#), the Jazz Journalists Association's 2011 Trombonist of the Year and a renowned educator, as its inaugural Guest-Artist-In-Residence for the 2012 **Louis Armstrong Legacy Program and Celebration (LALPC)**.

### **SMALL ENSEMBLE PROGRAMS**

This season the CJE introduces its new **Small Ensemble Concert series**, curated by recently announced Artistic Director Dana Hall and offering jazz music programmed around engaging concepts. Affording a more intimate setting to hear jazz played by smaller groupings of Ensemble members, this year's series is comprised of two performances at the Cindy Pritzker Auditorium at Chicago's [Harold Washington Library](#) (400 S. State Street). Tickets are \$18-48 for the general public and \$5 for students and can be purchased via [chicagojazzensemble.com](http://chicagojazzensemble.com) (NOT via the Harris Theater Box Office, as for the Harris Theater concerts).

On **Thursday, December 15**, at 7:30 pm the CJE presents "**Buhaina's Delight: Art Blakey and the Message of Jazz.**" This special program presents the Ensemble in quintet and sextet formats and features arrangements from the hard bop era, particularly music associated with [Art Blakey and the Jazz Messengers](#). The concert will present a historic overview of hard bop, its significant figures, and its conceptual foundations, so central to Blakey's musical aesthetic.

On **Friday, April 6**, at 7:30 pm the CJE presents "**Jazz and Literature.**" American literary figures such as Langston Hughes, Ralph Ellison, and Toni Morrison have infused the language of jazz into their writing, extending the oral tradition and elaborating on the call and response of improvisation. This program explores historical and contemporary collaborations between word and sound. There will also be a special guest, TBA.

### **LISTENING SESSION PROGRAMS**

The CJE will present three **Listening Sessions** for the 2011-12 season, featuring Artistic Director Dana Hall and the season's special guest artists. Listening Sessions take place on Thursdays from 12-1:30pm, location TBA. **Thursday, October 6** features Hall and trumpeter **Etienne Charles**; **Thursday, January 19** features Hall and bassists **Christian McBride** and **Meshell Ndegeocello**; and **Thursday, February 23**

features Hall and saxophonist **Miguel Zenón**. The Listening Sessions program is the CJE's signature series of informal gatherings in which a panel of jazz performers, educators, and critics play records and lead an interactive discussion around a particular topic in jazz. These sessions create unique opportunities to learn more about jazz music. Listening Sessions are **free and open to the public**.

#### **LALPC ARTIST-IN-RESIDENCE WYCLIFFE GORDON**

The CJE is honored to welcome trombonist, composer, and arranger **Wycliffe Gordon** as artist-in-residence for this season's [LALPC program](#). Gordon will work directly with students and educators in the **Chicago Public School** system leading up to the program culmination in May, the public Celebration performance by the students. LALPC, the CJE's premier education program, sends musicians from the Ensemble into nearly a dozen local schools as mentors each spring semester to share the artistic legacy and spirit of **Louis Armstrong** and the art of jazz in general.

**Wycliffe Gordon** has solidified a place in musical history as one of the top trombonists of his generation. The **Jazz Journalists Association** has named him **Trombonist of the Year** six times in the last ten years, and he tours regularly, leading the Wycliffe Gordon Quartet. He is a former member of the **Wynton Marsalis Septet** and the **Lincoln Center Jazz Orchestra** and has also been a featured guest artist on Billy Taylor's "Jazz at the Kennedy Center" series. Gordon currently serves on the faculty of the Jazz Arts Program at **Manhattan School of Music**. His work with young musicians from elementary schools to universities worldwide includes master classes, clinics, workshops, and lectures.

#### **IN BRIEF: LISTENING SESSIONS**

*12-1:30 pm on Thursdays, Location TBA, Free Admission*

October 6 - with Etienne Charles and Dana Hall

January 19 - with Christian McBride, Meshell Ndegeocello, and Dana Hall

February 23 - with Miguel Zenón and Dana Hall

#### **IN BRIEF: SMALL ENSEMBLE CONCERTS**

*7:30 pm at the Harold Washington Library's Cindy Pritzker Auditorium / Tickets only available at [www.chicagojazzensemble.com](http://www.chicagojazzensemble.com)*

Thursday, December 15 - "Buhaina's Delight: Art Blakey and the Message of Jazz"

Friday, April 6 - "Jazz and Literature"

#### **CJE ORGANIZATIONAL INFORMATION**

The Chicago Jazz Ensemble is **Dana Hall**, Artistic Director and drums; **Dan Nicholson** and **Jarrard Harris**, alto saxophone; **Pat Mallinger** and **Rob Denty**, tenor saxophone and clarinet; **Tim McNamara**, baritone saxophone; **Andy Baker**, **Tim Coffman**, **Tom Garling**, and **Thomas Matta**, trombone; **Mark Olen**, **Larry Bowen**, **Art Hoyle**, and **Pharez Whitted**, trumpet; **Jeremy Kahn**, piano; **Jeff Parker**, guitar; **Dan Anderson**, bass; and **Bobbi Wilsyn**, vocals.

**Season ticket subscriptions** are available for the CJE's three-concert Harris Theater series. All subscription packages must be purchased by phone via the Harris Theater Box Office at 312.334.7777. **Single tickets** for the Harris Theater series are available via phone or at [harristheaterchicago.org](http://harristheaterchicago.org).

Tickets for the **Small Ensemble Concert series** are available via [chicagojazzensemble.com](http://chicagojazzensemble.com). Call (312) 369-6250 for more information.

The CJE is proud to have been in residence at [Columbia College Chicago](http://Columbia College Chicago) since 1965. Its 2011-12 performance season is made possible in part by grants from the MacArthur Fund for Arts and Culture at Prince, the Fanny R. Wurlitzer Foundation, and the Illinois Arts Council, a state agency. The Chicago Jazz Ensemble's educational programs, including the Louis Armstrong Legacy Program and Celebration, are supported in part by the Louis Armstrong Educational Foundation, Citi Foundation, the Crown Family, the Elizabeth Morse Charitable Trust, and the Polk Bros. Foundation. The CJE is also sponsored by *Downbeat* Magazine and media sponsor 90.9fm WDCB Public Radio.

#####