

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



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**DUKE ELLINGTON JAZZ FESTIVAL ANNOUNCES CHAIRS:
THOMAS HALE BOGGS JR., WALTER ISAACSON, SHEILA JOHNSON,
MARC MORIAL, JAMES CARVILLE AND MARY MATALIN**

[April 23, 2009, Washington, D.C.] – The Duke Ellington Jazz Festival has tapped an extraordinary group of leaders to head the celebration of the festival's fifth anniversary June 5-15 honoring New Orleans.



**CELEBRATING
NEW ORLEANS**

The chairs of this year's festival are: Thomas Hale Boggs Jr., Chairman of Patton Boggs LLP; Walter Isaacson, President and CEO of the Aspen Institute; Sheila Johnson, CEO of Salamander Hospitality and president and managing partner of the Washington Mystics; former New Orleans Mayor Marc Morial; and the husband-wife political team James Carville and Mary Matalin.

All of the chairpersons have long-standing ties to the Crescent City. They plan to have an active role in the 11-day festival that kicks off on June 5th in the nation's capital city.

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

"We are elated to have such talented leaders serve as honorary chairs for this year's extravaganza," said Charles Fishman, Executive Producer and CEO of the festival. "They have been a dynamic force underlining our efforts to bring jazz music and education to residents of and visitors to the District of Columbia. They also have strong connections to New Orleans and Louisiana and are a testament to the talent we will salute this year."

The festival features top musical talent from New Orleans: the Marsalis family; Harry Connick, Jr.; Terence Blanchard; Rebirth Brass Band; Buckwheat Zydeco and Irma Thomas.

Highlights include two free *Jazz 'n Families Fun Days* at the Phillips Collection June 6-7; three free *Jazz on The National Mall* concerts June 12-14; free student concerts and master classes; and the return of the popular *Jazz in the 'Hoods* and *Brunchin' in the 'Hoods*, which features performances at over 35 restaurants, clubs, hotels and art galleries across the city.

In partnership with the DEJF, the French Embassy will pay a special tribute to New Orleans with the *Fifth Anniversary Gala Concert: Vivre New Orleans* on June 10 featuring Paquito D'Rivera, the festival's artistic director, presenting Dr. Michael White and the Original Liberty Jazz Band. The festival closes at the Kennedy Center on June 15 with its showcase event, *DEJF Jazz Master's Concert*, in honor of Ellis Marsalis.

Background on the chairs:

Thomas Hale Boggs, Jr.: Boggs has been named to *The National Law Journal's* List of The Top 100 Lawyers in the U.S. every year since its inception. Despite spending his career in Washington, he is a native of New Orleans and has deep ties to Louisiana. His father, Thomas Hale Boggs, Sr., was a long-standing congressman from the 2nd District of Louisiana. His mother, Lindy, filled his father's congressional seat in 1972 and served until

1991. "The festival is a world-class event, showcasing the best that jazz has to offer," Boggs said. "But the festival also showcases philanthropic spirit, the spirit of giving back to the community where jazz was born--proceeds from this festival will go toward building the Ellis Marsalis Center for Music in the Upper Ninth Ward of New Orleans, a place that will inspire a new generation of jazz musicians and listeners."

Walter Isaacson: A native of New Orleans, Isaacson--currently President and C.E.O. of the Aspen Institute--recently served as vice chairman of the Louisiana Recovery Authority. The former chairman and C.E.O. of CNN and former editor of Time magazine said, "I am thrilled to be a part of celebrating the magic special flavor of New Orleans music right here in our nation's capital. And, I salute the festival for a great sampling of my hometown's creative and cultural heritage and for shining the spotlight on America's significant art form, jazz." Isaacson is the author of *Einstein: His Life and Universe*, *Benjamin Franklin: An American Life*, and *Kissinger: A Biography*; and coauthor of *The Wise Men: Six Friends and the World They Made*.

Sheila C. Johnson: Johnson is an impassioned philanthropist and entrepreneur with a flair for business. She is the C.E.O. of Salamander Hospitality, LLC; president and managing partner of the Washington Mystics; and a partner in Lincoln Holdings, LLC. She also serves as a Global Ambassador for CARE and is a founder of Black Entertainment Television (BET). "I commend the greatness and splendor of the work of the Duke Ellington Jazz Festival; a festival that has shown boundless vision and tireless energy for education." Johnson serves as the Honorary Chair of the DEJF's Ovation Society, supporters of the festival who share a love of jazz, arts and culture in DC, and all things Ellington.

Marc H. Morial: Former mayor of New Orleans, Louisiana, Morial was selected as the 8th President and C.E.O. of The National Urban League, the nation's largest and oldest civil rights and direct services organization. His sharp agenda of advocating employment, civil rights and education works in unison with the DEJF's vision that is heavily rooted in the creation of jobs for musicians and its education outreach. "I have been involved in many projects and positions that have evoked a great sense of pride and my involvement with the Duke Ellington Jazz Festival enhances this list," says Morial. "The DEJF has achieved an incredibly challenging mission of educating people of all ages about jazz and its historical importance; showcasing the breadth of music from the District of Columbia's local-based musicians; and creating over a hundred jobs for engineers, producers, musicians, educators and administrators." Morial is a perfect fit for this fifth anniversary celebration of New Orleans as he has been a long-time avid supporter of the famed New Orleans Jazz and Heritage Festival and the Essence Music Festival, both in New Orleans.

James Carville and Mary Matalin. While noted political consultants and pundits James Carville and Mary Matalin are best known for their opposing affiliations within one of Washington's most legendary marriages, their common ground includes a love of jazz and New Orleans, where they currently reside. They proudly serve as one of the Crescent City's most visible ambassadorial couples alongside Brad Pitt and Angelina Jolie and Harry Connick, Jr. and Jill Goodacre. Carville, a Democrat, gained national prominence for his work as the lead strategist for the successful presidential campaign of then-Arkansas governor Bill Clinton, in addition to co-hosting CNN's *Crossfire*. Matalin, a Republican, served as an assistant to President George W. Bush and counselor to Vice President Dick Cheney until 2003. This year, James Carville added the title of college professor to his resume. He teaches political science, fittingly, at New Orleans' Tulane University.

2009 DEJF Festival: Celebrating New Orleans - Artists Include:

Paquito D'Rivera, *DEJF Artistic Advisor*

Terence Blanchard	Harry Connick, Jr.
Duke Ellington Orchestra	Bob French's Original Tuxedo Band
Donald Harrison	Little Freddie King
Branford Marsalis	Ellis Marsalis
Delfeayo Marsalis	Jason Marsalis
Wynton Marsalis	Nicholas Payton
Rebirth Brass Band	Trombone Shorty
Dr. Billy Taylor	Irma Thomas
Don Vappie & Creole Serenaders	Dr. Michael White
Larry Willis	Buckwheat Zydeco

About the Duke Ellington Jazz Festival: With over 100 performances in nearly 50 venues across the city, the Duke Ellington Jazz Festival is the largest music festival in Washington, DC, and 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 programs and performances at diverse venues in different neighborhoods of the District. Signature events at the festival include free, all-day concerts on the National Mall, which last year attracted more than 40,000 people. The festival'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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