

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



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**ON JUNE 10th THE EMBASSY OF FRANCE SALUTES
DUKE ELLINGTON JAZZ FESTIVAL'S 5th ANNIVERSARY FESTIVAL
CELEBRATING NEW ORLEANS JUNE 5-15**

[May 5, 2009, Washington, D.C.] – In partnership with the Duke Ellington Jazz Festival, the Embassy of France (La Maison Française/House of France DC) will pay special tribute to New Orleans at the Festival kick-off concert on June 10, *Vivre la Nouvelle Orléans*, with Paquito D'Rivera, the festival's artistic adviser, presenting the Crecent City's jazz icon Dr. Michael White and the Original Liberty Jazz Band.



**CELEBRATING
NEW ORLEANS**

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

Pierre Vimont, Ambassador of France to the United States, commented on the event. "We at the Embassy of France are delighted to support the Duke Ellington Jazz Festival, particularly since this year will celebrate New Orleans, which has a French flair and a shared history. France played an important role in the incubation of jazz, and our citizens continue to support this great music. We look forward to welcoming everyone to this wonderful event here in our home in Washington, DC, and taking part in the Festival."

- Tickets to the event are available to the public. June 10. \$35. 7:30pm. *La Maison Française, Embassy of France. 4101 Reservoir Road NW., Washington, DC. Information: www.HouseofFranceDC.org*
- Buy tickets: <http://www.instantseats.com> under "French-American Cultural Foundation"

Paquito D'Rivera is at home with both classical music and jazz – with nine Grammys in his collection to prove it – and always delights audiences not only with his musical brilliance but also with his comedic wit. From Cuba, D'Rivera has been artistic adviser for the Duke Ellington Jazz Festival (DEJF) since it began. A protégé of Dizzy Gillespie, he is a recipient of the National Medal for the Arts and is a National Endowment for the Arts Jazz Master. **Dr. Michael White** is a revered master of traditional New Orleans jazz who is acclaimed throughout world. Recently he worked with Wynton Marsalis on "A Tribute to Jelly Roll Morton." He is a professor at Xavier University specializing in the music and culture of New Orleans. White lost nearly everything in Hurricane Katrina, including the original sheet music of *Dead Man Blues* by Jelly Roll Morton, a clarinet mouthpiece owned by Sidney Bechet and a collection of more than 5000 records and LPs.

The Duke Ellington Jazz Festival (DEJF) celebrates the unique rich and diverse musical heritage of New Orleans June 5-15 and features renowned artists from the "birthplace of

jazz” including Irma Thomas, Buckwheat Zydeco, Terence Blanchard, Harry Connick, Jr. Rebirth Brass Band and many others.

Highlights include: two free *Jazz ‘n Families Fun Days* at the Phillips Collection June 6-7; two free *Jazz on The National Mall* concerts June 13-14; 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.

The festival closes at the Kennedy Center on June 15 with its showcase event, *Celebrating a Jazz Master: Ellis Marsalis*, a vanguard of jazz and jazz education in New Orleans.

The DEJF has tapped an extraordinary group of leaders to head the fifth annual festival, many of whom are expected to at the Embassy of France event. They include: Thomas Hale Boggs, Jr., Walter Isaacson, Marc Morial, Sheila C. Johnson, Bonnie McElveen-Hunter, James Carville and Mary Matalin.

2009 DEJF Festival Celebrating New Orleans - Artists Include:

Paquito D’Rivera, *DEJF Artistic Adviser*

Terence Blanchard	Harry Connick, Jr.
Duke Ellington Orchestra	Bob French's Original Tuxedo Jazz 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 & the Creole Serenaders	Dr. Michael White & the Original Liberty Jazz Band
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 the enduring legacy of 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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www.dejazzfest.org