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For Immediate Release
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ROBERTA FLACK JOINS THE DC JAZZ FESTIVAL'S BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Famed Jazz Singer and D.C. Native Returns to Her Roots to Support the Arts

September 23, 2010: Washington, D.C. – Festivals DC, Ltd and the [DC Jazz Festival](http://www.dcjazzfest.org) (DCJF) (<http://www.dcjazzfest.org>) today announced that four-time Grammy Award-winning vocalist [Roberta Flack](http://www.robtaflack.com) (<http://www.robtaflack.com>) has been unanimously elected to join the DCJF board of directors. Ms. Flack recently performed at the 2010 festival at the Lisner Auditorium at The George Washington University.

Discovered by legendary jazz pianist Les McCann at [Mr. Henry's](http://www.mrhenrysrestaurant.com) (<http://www.mrhenrysrestaurant.com>), a famed D.C. club on Capitol Hill, Ms. Flack is a recipient of a star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame. Her career took off following her performance of "The First Time Ever I Saw Your Face" for the soundtrack of Clint Eastwood's directorial debut "Play Misty for Me." Her original compositions "Killing Me Softly with His Song" and "Feel Like Makin' Love" are highly popular classics among music fans throughout the world.

A Washington, D.C. native, Ms. Flack is a Howard University graduate who taught in the D.C. Public Schools (DCPS) before the meteoric rise of her career. She is founder and benefactor of the Roberta Flack School of Music in the Bronx, New York, and she serves as the Honorary Chair of the DCJF Education Committee.

The DCJF Education Program strives to expose a broad demographic of young people to jazz and promotes jazz as an important musical form of arts education. Named in honor of the internationally renowned singer/songwriter/pianist/producer, the *DCJF Roberta Flack Music Excellence Program* offers free concerts, workshops, after-school programs, and master classes for more than 5,000 young people each year. Programs are held in partnership with DCPS and public charter schools, Sitar Arts Center and the Boys and Girls Club, among others.

About the DC Jazz Festival

The DC Jazz Festival is one the country's fastest-growing jazz events in the U.S. and is already the largest music festival in Washington, D.C. — with more than 100 performances at nearly 50 venues throughout the city. The festival has garnered widespread media acclaim and recognition within the global jazz community. Originally named the Duke Ellington Jazz Festival, the festival changed its name in 2010 to specify its location, and to better reflect its identity, and expanded ambition. The DCJF reinforces and further enhances the city's reputation as one of the world's most prominent tourist and special events destinations.

The DC Jazz Festival will hold its annual benefit on Tuesday, October 5 at the Embassy of

Italy. The benefit will honor Thomas Hale Boggs, Jr, Chairman of Patton Boggs LLP, with its 2010 DCJF John Conyers Jr. Jazz Advocacy Award. With Louisiana senator Mary Landrieu as Honorary Chairwoman, the evening will also feature a special performance by Grammy and Tony Award-winning vocalist Dee Dee Bridgewater. Contact Daniel Baez at 202-457-7628 or daniel.baez@dcjazzfest.org. Limited tickets are available.

For more information about the DC Jazz Festival and its Education Program Initiatives, visit www.dcjazzfest.org.

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