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## 2011 DC Jazz Festival Pays Tribute to Jazz Legends Jimmy Heath and Eddie Palmieri

### *Annual Lifetime Achievement Award Honors Two Jazz Giants*

**April 26, 2011, Washington, D.C.**—The [DC Jazz Festival](#) (DCJF) today announced that its annual [Lifetime Achievement Award](#) will be presented to two unique jazz legends: brilliant saxophonist [Jimmy Heath](#), and celebrated Puerto Rican pianist, [Eddie Palmieri](#) -- both also renowned bandleaders and prodigious composers -- at its 7<sup>th</sup> annual festival, held June 1-13. Each year the DCJF honors jazz greats for their lifetime contributions to jazz and humanity. Past awardees include [James Moody](#), [Ellis Marsalis](#), [George Wein](#), [Clark Terry](#), [Hank Jones](#), [Dr. Billy Taylor](#) and [Dave Brubeck](#).

“We are thrilled to present this year’s Lifetime Achievement Award to two distinguished artists in recognition of their indelible contributions to jazz. They have dedicated their lives to jazz as an art form, educational tool and unifying force,” said DC Jazz Festival Executive Producer [Charles Fishman](#). “No words could adequately express how much Mr. Heath and Mr. Palmieri have impacted the jazz genre and community.”

A nine-time Grammy Award winner, Eddie Palmieri is renowned for his unique blend of jazz and Latin rhythms. His musical career spans more than 50 years as a groundbreaking pianist, composer/arranger, and leader of celebrated Salsa and Latin jazz orchestras, as well as smaller ensembles. Palmieri, a restless, yet instinctive artist, embraces the future of his music by unapologetically blazing a distinctive musical path. A true powerhouse of brilliance, known for his astute arranging skills and historic compositions, he has also generously mentored countless young musicians throughout his career. Palmieri and his 11-piece All-Star Salsa Orchestra will close the **free** [Jazz on the National Mall](#) extravaganza on Sunday, June 12.

The second oldest brother of the legendary [Heath Brothers](#), Mr. Heath has long been recognized as a virtuoso instrumentalist, and magnificent composer/arranger. He has performed on more than 100 recordings with his own groups, as well as with jazz icons such as Dizzy Gillespie™, James Moody, and Miles Davis, to name just a few. Mr. Heath has and written more than 125 compositions, many of which have become jazz standards, The Heath Brothers will perform on Friday and Saturday, June 10 and 11 at [Bohemian Caverns](#). A preeminent educator, he directed the jazz

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[www.dcjazzfest.org](http://www.dcjazzfest.org)

program at Queens College in New York for many years.

“At this year’s festival, we celebrate two jazz greats who truly represent what this rich and traditional genre is all about,” said Michael Sonnenreich, Chairman and CEO of Kikaku America International and Chairman of the Board of Directors of the DC Jazz Festival. “Mr. Heath and Mr. Palmieri serve as model ambassadors for jazz music around the world.”

Featured performances include:

**Jazz on the National Mall** presented by [Bing](#) \* **FREE**

Sunday, June 12 at 1:00 p.m.

[National Mall / Sylvan Amphitheater](#)

After a one-year hiatus, the DCJF’s immensely popular **Jazz on the National Mall** returns to the nation’s capital featuring the Toby Foyeh Afro Jazz Quartet, Claudia Acuña Quintet, Frédéric Yonnet, Roy Hargrove’s RH Factor, and the Eddie Palmieri All-Star Salsa Orchestra.

**The Legendary Heath Brothers**

Saturday, June 11 at 8:30 p.m.

[Bohemian Caverns](#)

Saxophonist Jimmy, and his brother, drummer Albert “Tootie,” perform at the “sole home of soul jazz” in Washington, D.C.

Proud major sponsors and partners of the DC Jazz Festival, to date, include Bing; *The Washington Post*; ABC 7-TV/WJLA/News Channel 8; Patton Boggs LLP; Sage Communications; the Washington Convention and Sports Authority; Linda and Michael Sonnenreich; the Morris and Gwendolyn Cafritz Foundation; The Phillips Collection; Verizon; Microsoft; the *Washington City Paper*; American Airlines; LCG Systems; Dworbell; the Mayo Charitable Foundation; the NEA Foundation; Amtrak; WMATA (Metro); Bohemian Caverns, WWOZ FM, WPFW FM; and the National Park Service, among others.

Additional Resources

- Complete line-up: <http://tinyurl.com/26ds77p>
- Tickets: <http://tinyurl.com/4crcoo5>
- Twitter: [@dcjazzfest](#)
- Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/dcjazzfest>
- Flickr: <http://www.flickr.com/photos/dcjazzfest/>

**About the DC Jazz Festival**

With more than 100 performances in dozens of venues across the city, the DC Jazz Festival, a project of Festivals DC, Ltd., a 501 (c) (3) non-profit organization, is the largest music festival in Washington, D.C. and is one of the most highly-anticipated cultural events in the nation’s capital. The DCJF presents year-round music programs with performances featuring locally, nationally and internationally acclaimed artists which promote music integration in school curricula, and actively supports community outreach to expand and diversify its audience of jazz enthusiasts. For more information about the DC Jazz Festival and upcoming programs, visit [www.dcjazzfest.org](http://www.dcjazzfest.org).

The DC Jazz Festival<sup>SM</sup> is sponsored in part with a grant from the Government of the District of Columbia, Vincent C. Gray, Mayor; and, in part, by awards from the National Endowment for the Arts, and the DC Commission on the Arts and Humanities.

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