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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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DC Jazz Festival Honors La Maison Française and The Embassy of France with the John Conyers Jr. Jazz Advocacy Award

Venue Awarded at Annual Trustee Dinner for Promoting and Preserving Jazz

October 27, 2011, WASHINGTON — The [DC Jazz Festival](#) (DCJF) honored [La Maison Française](#) and The Embassy of France as the recipient of the 2011 [John Conyers Jr. Jazz Advocacy Award](#) for its devotion and commitment to jazz.

The Jazz Advocacy Award is presented each year to an individual or organization that has actively supported jazz and the DCJF. The award, named in honor of Representative John Conyers, Jr. (D-MI), a champion of jazz, who introduced a bill in Congress (HR-57) in 1987 that declared jazz a “rare and valuable American treasure to which we should devote our attention, support and resources to make certain it is preserved, understood and promulgated.”

La Maison Française was feted at the DC Jazz Festival’s Annual Trustees Dinner at the U.S. Department of State on October 5, 2011, hosted by Undersecretary of State for Education and Culture, Ann Stock. Long-time DCJF supporter and WJLA/ABC7 news anchor Leon Harris served as emcee of the evening, which featured an exciting performance by the Freddy Cole Quartet with DCJF co-Artistic Director Paquito D’Rivera and vocalist Hillary Kole as Special Guests.

“We are proud to honor La Maison Française for its long-standing dedication to and promotion of jazz and the DC Jazz Festival,” said DCJF Executive Producer Charles Fishman. “La Maison Française continues to present stellar jazz concerts in Washington throughout the year, ensuring that this unique art form is preserved and perpetuated throughout our community. We are extremely grateful to Undersecretary Ann Stock for graciously hosting this prestigious event.”

Past honorees include Thomas Hale Boggs, Jr., Chairman of Patton Boggs LLP (2010); the Government of the District of Columbia (2009); Dana Gioia, Chairman of the National Endowment of Arts (2008); and Congressman John Conyers Jr. (2007).

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Additional Resources

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- Flickr: <http://www.flickr.com/photos/dcjazzfest/>
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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, DC, is one of the most popular, highly-anticipated cultural events in the nation's capital, and has quickly become recognized within the global jazz community. The DCJF presents year-round programs with performances featuring local, nationally and internationally acclaimed artists that promote music integration in school curricula, and actively support 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.

The DC Jazz Festival® 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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