



WYNTON MARSALIS, Artistic Director
DEREK E. GORDON, President and CEO

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: FEBRUARY 2, 2006

For More Information, Contact:

MARY FIANCE FUSS, Director, Public Relations (212) 258-9829, mfuss@jalc.org

**JAZZ AT LINCOLN CENTER AWARDS GRANTS
OF NEARLY \$3 MILLION
FROM ITS *HIGHER GROUND HURRICANE RELIEF FUND***

New York, NY (February 2, 2006) — Jazz at Lincoln Center announced today that its *Higher Ground Hurricane Relief Fund*, administered through the Baton Rouge Area Foundation, has awarded 214 grants totaling \$2.8 million for musicians and music industry-related enterprises from the Greater New Orleans area that were affected by Hurricane Katrina.

21 grants of up to \$100,000 were awarded to the following nonprofit organizations:

- Acadiana Arts Council
- Arts Council of New Orleans
- Contemporary Arts Center
- CubaNOLA Collective
- Efforts of Grace, Inc.
- Greater New Orleans Youth Orchestra
- Jazz Foundation of America
- National Performance Network
- New Orleans Arts and Cultural Host
- New Orleans Center for Creative Arts
- New Orleans Jazz and Heritage Festival
- New Orleans Jazz Education Foundation
- New Orleans Jazz Orchestra Inc.
- New Orleans Music Hall of Fame Inc.
- New Orleans Musicians Clinic
- Norman Dixon Sr. Annual Second Line
- Ogden Museum of Southern Art
- Symphony Chorus of New Orleans
- Tipitina's Foundation
- Zulu Social Aid and Pleasure Club Inc.
- Katrina's Piano Fund Inc.

Grants of up to \$15,000 to 193 individuals were also awarded, with priority given to professional jazz musicians who were displaced by the Hurricanes. Applications for these grants were subject to deadlines. Applications were reviewed by a group of pre-screeners made up of individuals closely involved with the jazz community in New Orleans and by a national panel of jazz experts.

The *Higher Ground Hurricane Relief Fund* was established following Hurricane Katrina. Funds were raised from ticket sales to a benefit concert produced by Jazz at Lincoln Center that included a live national telethon on *PBS/Live From Lincoln Center* on September 17. The event included performances by an array of musicians and entertainers and, combined with an online eBay auction, other independent fundraising efforts by individuals and organizations all over the world, raised nearly \$3 million for the fund. In addition, proceeds from the Blue Note Records' *Higher Ground Concert* CD are being directed to the fund.

The *Higher Ground Hurricane Relief Fund* has received donations from thousands of individuals and organizations from around the world. Some of the broad range of donors include: Jazz All-Stars at New Jersey State Prison; Umbria Jazz Festival, Italy; Guadalajara Jazz Festival, Mexico; festivals throughout Canada; American and Canadian Universities, High Schools, and Elementary Schools; Japanese Embassy; Festival de Jazz de Vitoria-Gasteiz, Spain; Rhode Island Hurricane Relief Festival; Turkish Government; Monterey Jazz Festival, California; Twins Jazz Club, Washington, DC; Early Childhood Puppet Theatre, Ltd.

“Jazz at Lincoln Center is so grateful to the many friends from around the world who so generously contributed to this cause to help rebuild the Crescent City,” said Derek E. Gordon, President and CEO of Jazz at Lincoln Center.

For more details please visit www.jalc.org.

- - -

The Baton Rouge Area Foundation is a nonprofit organization composed of more than 300 charitable funds with over \$414 million in assets established by individuals, families, corporations and organizations. Since 1964, the Foundation has made grants in the areas of Arts & Humanities, Community Development, Education, Environment, Human Services, Medical/Health, Religion and Scholarships. In 2005, in response to Hurricanes Katrina and Rita, the Foundation established Foundations for Recovery, an internet portal to report to its donors and the greater community on its relief efforts. Our initial and immediate response to the storm was the creation two funds designed to address the catastrophic impact of Hurricane Katrina to southeast Louisiana. To date the total money raised for the relief effort is \$32.9 million. For more information about the Baton Rouge Area Foundation, visit www.braf.org.

Jazz at Lincoln Center is a not-for-profit arts organization dedicated to jazz. With the world-renowned Lincoln Center Jazz Orchestra, the Afro-Latin Jazz Orchestra and a comprehensive array of guest artists, Jazz at Lincoln Center advances a unique vision for the continued development of the art of jazz by producing a year-round schedule of performance, education, and broadcast events for audiences of all ages. These productions include concerts, national and international tours, residencies, weekly national radio and television programs, recordings, publications, an annual high school jazz band competition and festival, a band director academy, a jazz appreciation curriculum for children, advanced training through the Juilliard Institute for Jazz Studies, music publishing, children’s concerts, lectures, adult education courses and student and educator workshops. Under the leadership of Artistic Director Wynton Marsalis, Chairman of the Board Lisa Schiff, President & CEO Derek E. Gordon, Executive Director Katherine E. Brown and Jazz at Lincoln Center board and staff, Jazz at Lincoln Center will produce hundreds of events during its 2005-06 season. In October 2004, Jazz at Lincoln Center opened Frederick P. Rose Hall - the first-ever performance, education, and broadcast facility devoted to jazz. For more information, visit www.jalc.org

#