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**WYNTON MARSALIS, SANDRA DAY O'CONNOR TO LEAD
"A CELEBRATION OF AMERICA"
HOSTED BY ANDERSON COOPER & SOLEDAD O'BRIEN
LIVE ON CNN**

*To be held at the Kennedy Center in Washington, D.C. on
Monday, January 19th at 7 p.m.*

[New York, December 23, 2008] – Jazz at Lincoln Center and The Rockefeller Foundation will present “**A CELEBRATION OF AMERICA**” in the Kennedy Center’s Eisenhower Theater on the occasion of the Presidential Inauguration and Martin Luther King, Jr. Day on Monday, January 19, 2009 live on CNN at 7 p.m.

The evening’s program will look back on the life of one of the greatest of all Americans, and forward to a new era under a new President. An all-star cast will illustrate that American democracy and America’s music – jazz – share the same tenets and embody the same potential for change, hope and renewal, which Dr. King himself called America’s “triumphant music.” Special guest stars will be announced shortly.

“**A CELEBRATION OF AMERICA**” by Jazz at Lincoln Center is made possible through the generous support of the Rockefeller Foundation.

*****Media coverage guidelines to be provided in a subsequent release*****

Jazz at Lincoln Center is dedicated to inspiring and growing audiences for jazz. With the world-renowned Jazz at Lincoln Center 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, yearly hall of fame inductions, weekly national radio and television programs, recordings, publications, an annual high school jazz band competition and festival, a band director academy, jazz appreciation curriculum for students, music publishing, children’s concerts, lectures, adult education courses, student and educator workshops and interactive websites. Under the leadership of Artistic Director Wynton Marsalis, Chairman Lisa Schiff and Executive Director, Adrian Ellis, Jazz at Lincoln Center will produce nearly 3,000 events during its 2008-09 season in its home in New York City, Frederick P. Rose Hall, and around the world.

The Rockefeller Foundation was established by John D. Rockefeller, Sr., in 1913, and works around the world to ensure that more individuals, communities, and institutions can tap into growth and opportunity while developing stronger resistance to risks and challenges. Since 2005, the Rockefeller Foundation has launched major efforts to bolster local resilience to the global climate crisis, mobilize an agricultural revolution in Africa, rebuild New Orleans in the wake of Katrina, and shape smarter, more sustainable transportation policies in the United States. It also recently commenced a \$70 million Campaign for American Workers to shape new policy proposals and financial products that promote and protect savings, access to health care, and secure retirements.

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