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**JAZZ AT LINCOLN CENTER DISTRIBUTES \$622,000
FROM ITS HIGHER GROUND HURRICANE RELIEF FUND TO
JAZZ FOUNDATION OF AMERICA, MAKE IT RIGHT FOUNDATION,
AND LOUIS "SATCHMO" ARMSTRONG JAZZ CAMP**

New York, NY (March 4, 2008) — Jazz at Lincoln Center announced today that its *Higher Ground Hurricane Relief Fund*, administered through the Baton Rouge Area Foundation, has awarded three grants totaling \$622,000 for musicians from the Greater New Orleans area who were affected by Hurricane Katrina, and to foster the next generation of New Orleans jazz musicians.

"Jazz at Lincoln Center is deeply grateful to everyone who contributed to this fund from around the world. They are helping to rebuild the birthplace of jazz and to re-establish the vibrant cultural community that is the heart and soul of this city," said Adrian Ellis, Executive Director of Jazz at Lincoln Center.

"The tireless efforts of Wendy Oxenhorn for Jazz Foundation of America, Brad Pitt for Make It Right, and Jackie Harris for the Louis "Satchmo" Armstrong Jazz Camp demonstrate that each of us can make a significant contribution to rebuilding New Orleans. Thousands of contributions, large and small from around the world have made it possible for Jazz at Lincoln Center to help our fellow Americans in the Crescent City, and we are deeply indebted to everyone who gave us this opportunity."

The Jazz Foundation of America www.jazzfoundation.org was awarded a grant to keep musicians working in New Orleans. The Jazz Foundation of America saves hundreds of veteran musicians of jazz and blues from homelessness, eviction and hunger, as well as provides pro bono medical care for the uninsured. Since Katrina alone, the Jazz Foundation assisted over 3,500 emergency cases and has created employment for over 1,000 musicians in crisis with the Agnes Varis Jazz in the Schools Program. Wendy Oxenhorn, Executive Director of the Foundation said, "Thanks to this incredible gift we will be able to keep our beloved New Orleans musicians working, bringing free concerts to thousands of public school children and hundreds of elderly residents in nursing homes throughout the New Orleans area. This gift allows the musicians to keep their dignity, heritage, music and spirits alive."

Make It Right Foundation www.makeitrightnola.org was awarded a grant for the construction of two new houses for jazz musicians impacted by Hurricane Katrina. The applicants will be residents in the Lower Ninth Ward in New Orleans, and heads of household. "On behalf of Brad Pitt and all of us at Make It Right, we thank Jazz at Lincoln Center for this generous gift, and for recognizing the rich culture of the people of New Orleans' Lower Ninth Ward," said Tom Darden, Executive Director of Make It Right.

The Louis "Satchmo" Armstrong Jazz Camp www.louisarmstrongjazzcamp.com also received a grant in support of its 2008 camp, where 100 students age 10-20 experience three weeks of intense musical training and music business workshops with jazz masters and music industry professionals. Funds will also be used to support the Jazz Camp's after school program. Jackie Harris, Executive Director and Producer for The Louis "Satchmo" Armstrong Jazz Camp said, "We are very grateful to have received this contribution from the Jazz at Lincoln Center's Higher Ground Hurricane Relief Fund. Right now there are limited opportunities for youth to participate in music education in New Orleans. Very few schools are able to provide what should be part of everyday life for youngsters. Jazz at Lincoln Center is making the difference in the lives of our musicians and our children. That is what being a good citizen is all about. If Pops (Louis Armstrong) were alive, he'd say to Jazz at Lincoln Center "keep swingin' man!"

BACKGROUND:

The *Higher Ground Hurricane Relief Fund* was established following Hurricane Katrina. Funds were originally 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, 2005. The event included performances by an array of musicians and entertainers and over \$3.5 million was raised for the fund by the concert, combined with an online eBay auction, other independent fundraising efforts by individuals and organizations all over the world. 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.

In December 2005, Jazz at Lincoln Center's Higher Ground Hurricane Relief fund distributed \$2.9 million to help 193 individual musicians and 21 cultural organizations affected by Hurricane Katrina, with priority given to professional jazz musicians who were displaced by the hurricane. Donations to the Higher Ground Hurricane Relief

fund continued throughout 2006 and 2007 enabling a second round of grants for the jazz community in New Orleans. All grants were determined by individuals closely involved with the New Orleans jazz community in collaboration between Jazz at Lincoln Center and the Baton Rouge Area Foundation.

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The Baton Rouge Area Foundation is a community foundation that has provided more than \$200 million in grants to nonprofits over 40 years. Besides grants, the Foundation takes on projects to improve the Baton Rouge region. After Katrina, the Foundation raised more than \$45 million for relief and recovery, including partnering with Jazz at Lincoln Center to create the Higher Ground Hurricane Relief Fund to get Jazz back to the Crescent City. For more information about the Baton Rouge Area Foundation, visit www.braf.org.

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, 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 Lisa Schiff and Executive Director Adrian Ellis, Jazz at Lincoln Center will produce nearly 2,000 events during its 2007-08 season in its home in New York City, Frederick P. Rose Hall, and around the world. For more information, visit www.jalc.org.

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