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**JAZZ AT LINCOLN CENTER PRESENTS "A CELEBRATION OF AMERICA"
FUNDED BY THE ROCKEFELLER FOUNDATION**

LED BY WYNTON MARSALIS, SANDRA DAY O'CONNOR

Angela Bassett and Courtney B. Vance Host

*Performers include Bela Fleck, Dave Brubeck and Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater
Event held in the Kennedy Center's Eisenhower Theater*

[New York, January 19, 2009] – Jazz at Lincoln Center and The Rockefeller Foundation this evening presented **"A CELEBRATION OF AMERICA"** in the Kennedy Center's Eisenhower Theater on the occasion of the Presidential Inauguration and Martin Luther King, Jr. Day.

The evening's program was hosted by Angela Bassett and Courtney B. Vance.. Performers included: Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater, Bela Fleck, Cassandra Wilson, Chorale Le Chateau of New York City conducted by Damien Sneed, Dave Brubeck, Derek Trucks, Dianne Reeves, Don Vappie, Dr. Michael White, Foxborough (MA) High School Jazz Ensemble, Francesco Cafiso, Freddy Cole, Giovanni Hidalgo, Grace Kelly, Herlin Riley, Jared Grimes, Jazz at Lincoln Center Orchestra, Jessye Norman, Jonathan Batiste, Lucian Barberin, Marcus Gilmore, Mark O'Connor, Odadaa! with Yacub Addy, Paquito D'Rivera with Diego Urcola, Alex Brown, Oscar Stagnaro, and Mark Walker, Roy Haynes and Shannon Powell.

The program was anchored by interchange between Mr. Marsalis and Justice O'Connor. They shared the stage with a select group of celebrated artists whose repertoire selections supported the discussion about the values of civil society and the principles of democracy that jazz embodies.

"This is an extraordinary moment in America and Jazz at Lincoln Center is proud to produce this historic concert with generous support from The Rockefeller Foundation," said Adrian Ellis, executive director, Jazz at Lincoln Center. "The Jazz at Lincoln Center Orchestra, Wynton and the dazzling roster of musicians and dancers are honored to celebrate the interwoven story of jazz and democracy in America."

"The Rockefeller Foundation is honored to celebrate the power of innovation by supporting Wynton Marsalis and Jazz at Lincoln Center's inspired genius," said Judith Rodin, the Foundation's president. "This is much more than an extraordinary evening of performances. It's a call for improvisation and ingenuity in shaping solutions to the 21st century's defining challenges."

"**A CELEBRATION OF AMERICA**" was inspired by an impromptu conversation about jazz and democracy that took place between Wynton Marsalis and Rockefeller Foundation board member retired Supreme Court Justice Sandra Day O'Connor at a recent dinner. Mr. Marsalis and Justice O'Connor believe passionately that the basic tenets of American democracy and America's music are one and the same. There is no better time to celebrate this theme than

on this evening that will look back at the life of one of the greatest of all Americans, and forward to a new era under a new President of the United States. And there is no better way to celebrate it than through what Dr. King, himself, called America's 'triumphant music' – jazz.

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

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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