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Billie Holiday photo credit: ©Herman Leonard Photography LLC

*In the Best Possible Light: Herman Leonard's Jazz*  
Jazz at Lincoln Center & The Morrison Hotel Gallery  
Present A Free Exhibition

**Who/What:**

Jazz at Lincoln Center and the Morrison Hotel Gallery showcase a free art exhibition entitled *In the Best Possible Light: Herman Leonard's Jazz*. The exhibition and sale is open to the public and features masterworks in black and white photography by **Herman Leonard**, whose pictures of jazz icons Duke Ellington, Louis Armstrong, Miles Davis, Billie Holiday, and Thelonious Monk - among many others - make him the dean of jazz photographers.

This exhibition of Herman Leonard's jazz pictures honors a great photographer and some of the most beautiful photographs ever taken. "I want to show jazz artists in the best possible light," says Leonard, "to tell their truth but to tell it in terms of beauty."

This show will include more than forty classic black and white photographs of jazz icons. A video presentation will accompany the exhibit. A free brochure is also available.

All photos in this exhibit will be available for sale through the Morrison Hotel Gallery. Sales representatives from the gallery will be available in a designated area prior to

all Jazz at Lincoln Center performances throughout the duration of the exhibit.

**When:**

October 13, 2009 - February 14, 2010

**Where:**

Peter Jay Sharp Arcade, 5<sup>th</sup> floor, Frederick P. Rose Hall, Home of Jazz at Lincoln Center, Broadway at 60<sup>th</sup> Street; New York, New York.

**Admission:**

The exhibit is FREE and open to the public, Tuesday through Sunday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. and 6 p.m. to 11 p.m. and Monday from 6 p.m. to 11 p.m.

**What Else:**

These pictures comprise an indispensable historical record—particularly of the late forties moment when the new music called bebop was crystallizing. But Leonard was more than a faithful recorder of deeds, he was an artist. “Photography is painting with light,” said Leonard. Whether illuminating a dark club’s smoke to suggest mystery and possibility; setting lights behind musicians to create a sense of sculptural depth; or making a gentle still-life of a musician’s shoes or hat—Leonard was revealing beauty in the moment. Consider his portraits of Miles Davis, whom Leonard calls his best subject: how light traces the angular facial structure and catches in the fiery eyes. In its glow, Davis’s skin looks, Leonard says, “like black satin.”

Jazz at Lincoln Center’s curatorial group comprises Robert G. O’Meally, C. Daniel Dawson, Diedra Harris-Kelley, Linda Florio and Emily Lordi.

**Herman Leonard Bio:**

[http://www.hermanleonard.com/default\\_biography.htm](http://www.hermanleonard.com/default_biography.htm)

**About the Morrison Hotel Gallery:**

Founded in 2001 by former record company executive and producer Peter Blachley, former independent record store-owner Rich Horowitz, and music photographer Henry Diltz, The Morrison Hotel Gallery has grown to become the major brand in fine art music photography. With already thriving locations in Soho in New York City, Los Angeles, CA, The Bowery in New York City and the Americana Manhasset on Long Island, NY, MHG has opened its fifth location in Del Mar, CA.

<http://www.morrisonhotelgallery.com/photographer/default.aspx?photographerID=49>

**Sponsors:**

This exhibition is made possible by a generous gift from Janice and Bob Burns, and is presented in collaboration with Herman Leonard Photography, LLC and the Morrison Hotel Gallery.

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Jazz at Lincoln Center proudly acknowledges its major corporate partners:

Bank of America, BET J, Bloomberg, Brooks Brothers, The Coca-Cola Company, Entergy, Sirius XM Radio.

**For more information:**

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For more information on the Morrison Hotel Gallery, please contact Carrie Tolles ([ctolles@shorefire.com](mailto:ctolles@shorefire.com)) or Matt Hanks ([mhanks@shorefire.com](mailto:mhanks@shorefire.com)) at Shore Fire Media, 718.522.7171.

<http://www.morrisonhotelgallery.com> / <http://www.shorefire.com/clients/mhgallery>

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