

For Immediate Release
August 16, 2010

Media Contact
Cynthia Hollod, Executive Director
908-541-1600
Images available upon request



DOWNTOWN SOMERVILLE TO HOST 2ND ANNUAL SOMERVILLE JAZZ FESTIVAL ON SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 12, 2010

Louis Hayes, legendary jazz drummer, will headline festival

Somerville, NJ – Downtown Somerville will host the 2nd Annual Somerville Jazz Festival on Sunday, September 12, 2010 from 1:00 – 6:00 pm, rain or shine, on the Somerset County Courthouse Green. Legendary jazz drummer Louis Hayes will headline the festival, which will also include alto saxophonist Lou Donaldson, internationally acclaimed vocalist Melissa Walker and the exciting Latin jazz sound of the Curtis Brothers.

Sheila E. Anderson, author and on air personality of WBGO Jazz 88.3FM, Newark will be returning this year to produce and host the festival.

The outdoor festival is free of charge and is rain or shine. Parking will also be free and available in Downtown Somerville's numerous municipal lots and on-street parking. Downtown Somerville restaurants will be featuring their wide-ranging cuisines outdoors in the vicinity of the stage.

"Last year's inaugural jazz festival was an amazing success. Everyone is looking forward to another afternoon of great jazz. The Downtown Somerville Alliance is pleased to be bringing this fun, cultural event to our great downtown," said Thomas Genova, chair, Downtown Somerville Alliance.



Drummer **Louis Hayes**, an authentic architect of post-bop swing, has been performing professionally since he was 18. At 83 he has become one of the most recorded jazz drummers in history, contributing to hundreds of records. Throughout his career he has been a catalyst for energetic, unrelenting swing in his self led bands, as well as in those whose respective leaders reads like an encyclopedia of straight ahead post-bop modern jazz. He started with tenor saxophonist, flautist and oboist Yusef Lateef who like Hayes is a Detroit native. After the stint with Lateef, Hayes performed with groups led by pianist Horace Silver, legendary saxophonist Cannonball Adderley and pianist Oscar Peterson. These positions were augmented by countless recordings on the Blue Note, Prestige, Riverside and other labels with the likes of

(more)

John Coltrane, Sonny Rollins, J.J. Johnson, Jackie McLean, Wes Montgomery, Cedar Walton, Dexter Gordon, Woody Shaw, George Benson, Freddie Hubbard, Joe Henderson, and McCoy Tyner. Since the late 1990s Hayes has been leading two outstanding quintets, the Louis Hayes Quintet, a hard-bop group, and the Cannonball Adderley Legacy Band, paying tribute to the Adderly brothers.

Lou Donaldson, alto saxophonist, recording star and entertainer extraordinaire was born in Badin, North Carolina on November 1, 1926. He began playing the clarinet when he was 9 years old but after hearing Charlie Parker he settled on the saxophone. Moving to New York City in 1950, Lou began his long, fruitful, association with Blue Note records. In 1968 the organ sound was popular and he recorded, *Alligator Boogaloo* with Dr. Lonnie Smith on the organ, George Benson on guitar, Melvin Lasky on trumpet, Idris Mohammed (Leo Morris) on drums. A great commercial success, it stayed on the Best Selling Billboard chart for 52 weeks.



He was awarded the honorary Doctorate of Letters by North Carolina A& T University and a scholarship was established in his name that is awarded to the most gifted jazz musician at North Carolina A&T University each year. He was inducted into the International Jazz Hall of Fame and is the recipient of countless other honors and awards for his outstanding contributions to jazz. He is very proud of his current group that boasts the musical excellence of Randy Johnston on guitar, Akiko Tsuruga on organ, Fukushi Tainaka on drums, along with Lou on alto sax. www.loudonaldson.com



With her rich, multi-octave vocals and impeccable phrasing, **Melissa Walker** has received critical acclaim in concerts across several continents, working with such hallowed talents as Hank Jones, Gary Bartz, and Kenny Barron; young jazz geniuses like Christian McBride, Stefon Harris and Mokoto Ozone; and late greats like Ray Brown. Her three CD releases since 1997 - and well-deserved Canadian Juno award nomination and US Indie honorable mention -- have created a nuanced corpus of jazz standards and new material unrivaled in its honoring of America's jazz tradition.

When Melissa isn't touring she dedicates her time to Jazz House Kids, Inc. the acclaimed not-for-profit organization she created, which provides jazz enrichment programs for kids. Her 2009 CD, *In the Middle of It All*, has received critical acclaim. (www.melissawalker.com)

The **Curtis Brothers**, comprised of **Luques and Zaccai Curtis**, have distinguished independent careers in addition to their work together. Their latest recording, *Blood, Spirit, Land, Water, Freedom* on Truth Revolution Records showcases their writing and arranging talents and they give a fresh and exciting sound to the modern Latin Jazz art form.

(more)



As a composer and arranger **Zaccai Curtis** has written works for his own small ensembles, solo piano, big band, orchestra, and for large and small ensembles with strings. He was chosen as a winner of the ASCAP Young Jazz Composer's competition four consecutive times from 2003-2006. After graduating from the New England Conservatory of Music in 2005 Zaccai Curtis has been living in New York City playing with such artists as Ralph Peterson, Will Calhoun, Christian Scott, Brian Lynch, Sean Jones, Ray Vega, Cindy Blackman, Jimmy Greene, Jerry Gonzalez and the Fort Apache Band, Papo Vasquez, and Donald Harrison.

Luques Curtis has been performing bass professionally from a very young age and earned a full scholarship to the prestigious Berklee College of Music. Now living in New York City Luques has been performing with artists such as Eddie Palmieri, Brian Lynch, Ralph Peterson, Christian Scott, Sean Jones, Gary Burton, Stefon Harris, Donald Harrison and others. (www.curtisbrothersmusic.com)



Sheila E. Anderson, producer and host of the Somerville Jazz Festival has been an on air personality for WBGO Jazz 88.3 FM since 1995 and the current host of Jazz After Hours, 1 am – 5 am, Saturday and Sunday nights. Anderson has produced The Newark Museum's summer Jazz in the Garden series since 2002 as well as New Rochelle Library on the Green (2006-2008) and Jazzmobile Harlem International Jazz Festival (2008 and 2009). In addition, Ms. Anderson is the author of two books about music, "The Quotable Musician: From Bach to Tupac" (2003), of which the paperback edition was released in October 2009, and "How to Grow as a Musician: What All Musicians Must Know to Succeed." (2005).

(<http://www.wbgo.org/ontheair/hosts/sanderson.php>)

The official Somerville Jazz Festival poster and t-shirt feature the original artwork "Dizzy" by Leslie Floyd, a Somerville native. T-shirts will be available for sale at the festival for \$15. People can win a free t-shirt through the "Tell 5 Friends – Win a Free T!" promotion at www.somervillejazzfestival.com.



Mr. Floyd has had art shows at Yale University, Rochester, Philadelphia, Trenton, Plainfield, New York City and other locations. For several years, Mr. Floyd's portrait of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. was displayed at the Somerset County Courthouse. He uses all mediums of art but prefers watercolor, pen and ink, and acrylics. Mr. Floyd describes his art as traditional realism with a slight impressionist influence. He currently has a studio in Somerville, does art shows, commissioned art and gives private lessons.

(more)

More information about the Somerville Jazz Festival can be found at www.somervillejazzfestival.com

The Somerville Jazz Festival is presented by the Downtown Somerville Alliance (DSA) whose mission is to promote and enhance the economic well-being and growth of Somerville's Historic Downtown District. Visit www.findsomerville.com for more information about Downtown Somerville.

Major support for the 2nd Annual Somerville Jazz Festival is provided by TD Bank and Skylands Community Bank. Media sponsorship is provided by Courier News, mycentraljersey.com, and WBGO 88.3 FM Jazz Radio. Additional support is provided by Connie's Music Center, Loumarc Signs, Minuteman Press, The Pianosmith, and Somerset County Cultural and Heritage Commission. Drums provided by Somerville's Division Street Music.

Funding has been made possible in part by the New Jersey State Council on the Arts./Dept. of State, a Partner Agency of The National Endowment for the Arts through the State/County Partnership Local Arts Program administered for Somerset County by the Somerset County Cultural & Heritage Commission.

(end)