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**AMBROSE AKINMUSIRE WINS THE 20th THELONIOUS MONK
INTERNATIONAL JAZZ COMPETITION**

THE THELONIOUS MONK INSTITUTE OF JAZZ AND THE RECORDING ACADEMY[®] LOS ANGELES CHAPTER HONOR JAZZ ICON HERBIE HANCOCK WITH AN ALL STAR TRIBUTE CONCERT FEATURING PERFORMANCES BY STING, JONI MITCHELL, JAMIE FOXX, CHRIS BOTTI, GEORGE BENSON, AL JARREAU AND MORE

QUINCY JONES PRESENTS HANCOCK WITH INAUGURAL HERBIE HANCOCK HUMANITARIAN AWARD ESTABLISHED BY THELONIOUS MONK INSTITUTE OF JAZZ

OCTOBER 28th, 2007 IN LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA

(Los Angeles, CA. – October 29, 2007) – The famous Kodak Theatre in Los Angeles held its first major jazz concert ever last night as celebrities, entertainment executives, business leaders and musicians converged onstage to pay tribute to one of the greatest jazz musicians of all time. Legendary music icon and 10-time GRAMMY[®] winner **Herbie Hancock** was honored with an all star tribute concert recognizing all he has contributed to jazz, the music industry and society through his illustrious career. Further, the Thelonious Monk Institute of Jazz established the Herbie Hancock Humanitarian Award, which will be given each year to a person who has used their passion and influence for the greater good of society and mankind. Legendary producer and friend **Quincy Jones** presented Hancock with the inaugural award saying, “Over the course of his career Herbie Hancock has not only changed the world of music, he has used music to change the world.”

“Over the course of my career I have had the privilege of playing for audiences around the world and introducing jazz to places it has never been. My time with the Thelonious Monk Institute has allowed me to educate young people across the United States and globally while also using jazz as a force to bring people together. Whether it’s being with some of the most powerful world leaders at diplomatic summits or teaching a classroom full of students in Vietnam, India or Peru, I’ve learned one thing is for certain – when music arrives, people listen, not only to the music but to the message the music brings. And I assure you, I’m going to be bringing music and its unifying and harmonious message to many people as long as I have a single breath in my body” said Hancock.

Under the direction of Producer and Music Director **Rickey Minor**, the concert featured intimate, special performances from five-time GRAMMY-winning singer/songwriter and producer **Joni Mitchell**, 16-time GRAMMY-winning pop/rock icon **Sting**, Oscar winning actor and musician **Jamie Foxx** and other legendary musicians including **Al Jarreau**, **Nancy Wilson**, **Wayne Shorter**, **Chris Botti**, **George Duke**, **George Benson**, **Terence Blanchard** and **Roy Hargrove**. Also attendance was Recording Academy President/CEO **Neil Portnow** and Recording Academy Chair **Jimmy Jam** along with celebrity Friends and renowned industry executives including **Quincy Jones**, **Debbie Allen**, **Norman Lear**, **Trudie Styler**, **Mario Van Peebles**, **Louis Gossett Jr.**, **Nichelle Nichols**, **Grand Mixer DXT**, **Spanky Wilson** and **Patrick Duffy**.

“Tonight we honor a man who has given so much to the world of music, and in so doing, has given the world something more than music. The Thelonious Monk Institute is proud and honored to partner with the Recording Academy in presenting this special tribute. Like my father himself, we at the Thelonious Monk Institute and the Recording Academy believe that music education is essential, not only because the music lifts our spirits and enriches our lives as individuals, but because music has the power to unite people across cultural divides” said Thelonious Monk Institute Board of Trustees Chairman Thelonious Monk Jr.

This year marked the very first time the world renowned jazz competition and concert has taken place on the West Coast. The Competition and landmark tribute concert will air nationwide on **BET** (airdate TBA).

Thelonious Monk Institute of Jazz President Tom Carter said of the evening, “Bringing the Thelonious Monk International Jazz Competition and the tribute to Herbie Hancock to Los Angeles this year has been an exciting change for us. This event truly speaks to what we at the Institute are all about, discovering and fostering the talent of the next generation of great jazz musicians and shining a spotlight on the importance of music education programs and making those programs available to everyone. In recognizing Herbie Hancock, we acknowledge the extraordinary musicians that utilize their talent and influence to achieve those same goals.”

The Thelonious Monk International Jazz Competition is regarded as the most prestigious jazz competition in the world. During last night’s tribute, the three finalists from the 2007 Thelonious Monk International Jazz Trumpet competition received one more chance to perform before a packed house at the Kodak Theatre and a legendary panel of judges including **Quincy Jones**, **Herb Alpert**, **Terence Blanchard**, **Hugh Masekela**, **Clark Terry** and **Roy Hargrove**. **Ambrose Akinmusire**, **Michael Rodriguez** and **Jean Caze** were selected from a group of ten outstanding young jazz trumpet players following the semi-finals of the competition, which were held on Saturday, October 27th at Schoenberg Hall on the University of California, Los Angeles Campus.

Each year the institute attracts the brightest young jazz talent in the world to compete for a series of scholarships. The winner of the 2007 Thelonious Monk International Jazz Trumpet Competition and a \$20,000 scholarship was **Ambrose Akinmusire**. Second place winner **Jean Caze** received a \$10,000 scholarship and third place winner **Michael Rodriguez** received a \$5,000 scholarship.

The All Star Tribute Concert and Competition was the crowning jewel during an exciting weekend of events celebrating the future of jazz and the American legacy of jazz. Following the semi-finals on Saturday afternoon, music legend, judge and Thelonious Monk Institute Advisory Board Member Quincy Jones hosted an intimate dinner for all participating artists, VIP guests and Institute supporters. To celebrate its triumphant relocation to Los Angeles for 2007, the Institute also hosted an elegant VIP reception following the concert last night in the Grand Ballroom of the historic Hollywood Roosevelt Hotel, the original home of the Academy Awards. Guests enjoyed a reception and dinner while mingling with some of the greatest jazz legends of all time.

The Thelonious Monk Institute of Jazz is well respected and known for its achievements in furthering jazz performance and education among our nation's youth. In April of 2007 the Institute's Jazz Performance graduate-level college program was relocated to the campus of Loyola University New Orleans as part of their "Commitment to New Orleans" initiative. The "Commitment to New Orleans" is an education and community investment aimed to help in the revitalization and restoration of post Katrina New Orleans using jazz as a catalyst to bring people together in the spirit of America's music. The program aims to embody the Thelonious Monk Institute's mission to: foster the next generation of jazz greats, educate young people about jazz and help to expand and perpetuate the music while engaging the Institute's students and jazz artists in various community service projects throughout New Orleans. In addition to this initiative the Institute works in nineteen public schools throughout the LA Unified School District and presents jazz education programs free of charge across the country and around the world. Every dollar raised through the benefit will go to support and maintain these extraordinary programs. The Thelonious Monk International Jazz Competition and All-Star Tribute to Herbie Hancock was sponsored by **Cadillac** and **GMAC Financial Services**. **United Airlines** is the official and exclusive airline of the Thelonious Monk Institute of Jazz.

The Recording Academy Los Angeles Chapter focuses on fostering educational growth to young musicians while creating new signature programs that highlight genre and community support. Through various initiatives and events, they focus on professional development and are dedicated to establishing relationships between their members, the community and other arts organizations.

About Ambrose Akinmusire

Ambrose Akinmusire was born in Nigeria and grew up in Oakland, California. He began playing piano at age four, drums at age 11, and trumpet at age 12. Akinmusire attended Berkeley High School and then moved to New York to attend the Manhattan School of Music. At the Manhattan School, he studied with Steve Coleman and in 2001 began touring and recording with him. Ambrose has toured with Herbie Hancock and Wayne Shorter throughout Vietnam and India. He has also performed and recorded with artists such as Joe Henderson, Christian McBride, Aaron Parks, Joshua Redman and the San Francisco Jazz Collective.

About Jean Caze

Jean Caze was born in Haiti and began playing the trumpet at age nine. While in high school, he was selected for the Grammy All-Star Jazz Ensemble. Caze attended the Julliard's Music Advancement Program and studied at Queens College. He earned his bachelor's degree from the Manhattan School of Music and his master's degree from Florida International University. Caze was the winner of the 2006 International Trumpet Guild Jazz Competition and the 2004 National Jazz Competition. He has played with Herbie Hancock, Arturo Sandoval, Bob Mintzer and *Chicago*.

About Michael Rodriguez

Michael Rodriguez was born in Queens, New York and was inspired by his father to pursue music. Rodriguez studied at the New World School of the Arts in Miami and continued his studies at the University of Miami. He transferred to New School University in New York, where he received his bachelor's degree. Rodriguez has performed with artists including Eric Reed, the Carnegie Hall Jazz Band, the Carla Bley Band, Harry Connick Jr., the Smithsonian Jazz Masterworks Orchestra and Bob Mintzer. He has performed on Charlie Haden's 2004 album, *Land of the Sun*, and on the Charlie Haden Liberation Music Orchestra's 2005 album, *Not in Our Name*. Rodriguez lives in New York, where he plays regularly with the Rodriguez Brothers.

About the Thelonious Monk Institute of Jazz

The Thelonious Monk Institute of Jazz, a nonprofit education organization, was founded in 1986 in memory of the legendary jazz pianist and composer. The Institute fosters the next generation of jazz greats by offering the world's most promising young musicians college level training by America's jazz masters, educating young people around the world about jazz through innovative public school initiatives, and presenting a wide range of programs that help to expand and perpetuate America's indigenous musical art form. For more information on the Institute, please visit www.monkinstitute.org

About The Recording Academy® Los Angeles Chapter

Established in 1957, The Recording Academy is an organization of musicians, producers, engineers and recording professionals that is dedicated to improving the cultural condition and quality of life for music and its makers. Internationally known for the GRAMMY Awards — the preeminent peer-recognized award for musical excellence and the most credible brand in music — The Recording Academy is responsible for groundbreaking professional development, cultural enrichment, advocacy, education and human services programs. In its 50th year, The Academy continues to focus on its mission of recognizing musical excellence, advocating for the well-being of music makers and ensuring music remains an indelible part of our culture. The Recording Academy Los Angeles Chapter, founded in 1957, holds the distinction of being the organization's first and largest Chapter. For more information about The Academy, please visit www.grammy.com.

For more information on this event, please contact Andy Gelb or Kelly Stephens of PMK/HBH Public Relations at (310) 289-6200. Photos from the Thelonious Monk International Jazz Trumpet Competition and Tribute to Herbie Hancock are available at www.wireimage.com.