



THELONIOUS MONK
INSTITUTE OF JAZZ

Herbie Hancock
Chairman

Bill Cosby
Billy Dee Williams
Honorary Chairmen

BOARD OF TRUSTEES
Thelonious S. Monk, Jr.
Chairman

Debbie Allen
Paxton Baker
Jerry Florence
Jimmy Heath
Stuart Subotnick
Clark Terry

Thomas R. Carter
President

Terence Blanchard
Artistic Director
Institute of Jazz
Performance at USC

Daniel Seeff
West Coast Director

ADVISORY BOARD
Kareem Abdul-Jabbar

Frank Alkyer
Herb Alpert
David Baker
Dave Brubeck
Dee Dee Bridgewater
Kenny Burrell
Ron Carter
Nathan Davis
Clint Eastwood
Charlie Haden
Barry Harris
Percy Heath
Quincy Jones
Randall Kennedy
Martin Luther King, III
Jeff Levenson
Bruce Lundvall
Branford Marsalis
Ellis L. Marsalis
Wynton Marsalis
Jackie McLean
Marian McPartland
Carolyn Peachey
Frances Preston
Ahmad Rashad
Max Roach
Glenn Sabin
Richard Seidel
Sigmund Shapiro
Wayne Shorter

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
March 9, 2005

Contact: Thomas R. Carter
202-364-7272
tomcarter@monkinstitute.org

**RUSSIA'S TOP YOUNG JAZZ MUSICIANS TO STUDY WITH RENOWNED
AMERICAN JAZZ MASTERS IN OPEN WORLD JAZZ PROGRAM**

Two-Week New York City Residency Takes Place March 10 - 25, 2005

Washington, D.C. – The Thelonious Monk Institute of Jazz is pleased to announce that it has received a most prestigious grant from the Open World Leadership Center at the Library of Congress to present a two-week international student exchange program in New York City with a group of Russia's most gifted young jazz musicians. These eight students will arrive in the United States on Thursday March 10 and will take part in the groundbreaking cultural exchange program through March 25 on the campus of New School University, which is hosting the program through the Jazz and Contemporary Music Program. The Open World Program is managed by the Open World Leadership Center at the Library of Congress, which also funds the administrative portion of the program. Support for the cultural program is also provided through partnership and funding from the National Endowment for the Arts.

During the two-week residency, the Thelonious Monk Institute has prepared an extensive educational and cultural experience which includes private and ensemble instruction, a series of master classes and clinics conducted by major jazz artists and educators, meetings with music industry executives, and high-profile public performances. The Russian musicians will study with some of America's most renowned jazz artists, including Kenny Barron, Jimmy Heath, Lewis Nash, Clark Terry, Kenny Werner, and Reggie Workman.

As part of the program, the Russian artists will have the opportunity to interact with young American jazz musicians through jam sessions at various New York City jazz clubs. They will also study and perform with the six talented students who attend the Thelonious Monk Institute of Jazz Performance, an intensive two-year graduate level college program at the University of Southern California.

A highlight of the program will be two performances at the legendary Blue Note jazz club on Monday evening, March 21, featuring the Russian exchange students, the Monk Institute college students, and special guests Kenny Barron, Jimmy Heath, and Clark Terry. Performances will take place at 8:00 and 10:30 p.m.



Page Two – Russian Jazz Musicians to Participate in Open World Jazz Program

The visiting Russian musicians are saxophonists Dmitriy Mospan and Yevgeniy Sokolovskiy; trumpet player Andrey Basov; trombonist Andrey Saltanov; pianist Vladimir Nesterenko; guitarist Ivan Rakhmanov; bassist Makar Novikov; and drummer Aleksandr Mashin. These delegates come from Moscow, Khimki, St. Petersburg, and Kursk, as well as the Novosibirsk and Rostov regions, and represent musical institutions such as the Novosibirsk State Philharmonic, Moscow State University of Culture & Arts, Institute of Contemporary Arts, and Moscow Ragtime Band.

Geraldine Otremba, Executive Director of the Open World Leadership Center, said, “The goal of the cultural leaders program is to forge better understanding between America and Russia by giving emerging Russian leaders in the arts unique opportunities to observe and experience American culture and community life firsthand. There are deep cultural roots from Russia that have shaped dance, theater, music, and the visual arts in the United States. Open World’s expanded cultural initiative – made possible through our partnership with the NEA – will extend these ties to a very young group of Russian artists and cultural leaders. This cultural initiative will permit Russian and American cultural leaders to discuss similar challenges and learn from each other’s experiences.”

Thelonious Monk, Jr., Chairman of the Institute’s Board of Trustees, said, "The Thelonious Monk Institute is honored to be working with the Open World Leadership Center on this international student exchange program. For two weeks, Russia's finest young jazz musicians will be able to experience America’s music in New York City, the jazz center of the world. We hope they will return to their homeland with stronger musical skills and a better understanding of our country and its people."

The Open World Program (www.openworld.gov) brings emerging leaders from Russia to communities across the United States on short-term, high-level professional exchanges. The program is managed by the Open World Leadership Center, an independent legislative branch agency that works cooperatively with the U.S. Department of State and other U.S. executive and judicial branch agencies. Senator Ted Stevens and Librarian of Congress James Billington were instrumental in establishing the Open World Leadership Center in 2000 as a means of increasing mutual understanding between Russia and the United States and as a way to support Russia's efforts to strengthen its democratic reforms. In 2003, Open World was expanded to include cultural exchange programs. To date, over 7,000 cultural, political and civic leaders have participated in these programs. Open World is the U.S. legislative branch’s only exchange program, and annual funding is provided by Congress. For more background on Open World and the Cultural Leaders Program, contact Donna Wilson at 202.707.8943.

The Thelonious Monk Institute of Jazz (www.monkinstitute.org) was established in 1986 with a mission to preserve America's legacy of jazz through performance and education. The Institute offers the world's most promising young musicians college level training by America's jazz masters and presents public school-based jazz education programs for young people around the world. Additionally, the Institute provides scholarships, performance opportunities, and worldwide recognition to gifted young musicians through its many jazz education programs.

###