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BMA PRESENTS JAZZ IN THE SCULPTURE GARDEN CONCERTS

Moon August kicks off concert series on July 18

BALTIMORE, MD (May 21, 2009)—Join fellow jazz enthusiasts for the BMA’s popular **Jazz in the Sculpture Garden** summer concert series. For over two decades, the Museum has presented this one-of-a-kind summer event, which features regional and national talents performing against a stunning backdrop of modern art in the Museum’s renowned Sculpture Garden. This year the concert series includes Moon August, Carl Grubbs, Paula West, Wayne Escoffery & Veneration, and Jeffery Smith featuring T. K. Blue. These casual concerts take place on select **Saturdays** in **July and August at 7 p.m.** Tickets are \$25. To listen to sample music clips of this year’s artists, visit artbma.org.

In addition to the concert, explore the connection between art and music through the BMA’s exclusive pre-concert twilight tours at 5 p.m. After the tour, gain early entry to the sculpture gardens to reserve your seating, and enjoy a glass of wine selected by Gertrude’s. Pre-concert tour tickets are \$10; a concert ticket is required in order to purchase pre-concert tickets. Advance sales only; space is limited.

Enjoy the show from intimate concert seating, picnic with sandwiches and snacks purchased from the outdoor bar, or bring your own. For an extra-special evening, make reservations for Jazz+Dinner, an elegant three-course meal served on the terrace of celebrity chef John Shield’s restaurant Gertrude’s. Jazz+Dinner tickets are \$70. Call 443-889-3399 for reservations.

Tickets go on sale Wednesday, June 24, and are available in person at the BMA Box Office, by phone at 800-919-6272, or online at artbma.org. Service charges apply for phone and online orders. Concerts usually sell out; advance ticket purchase is strongly recommended.

This summer’s line-up includes:

July 18: Moon August

Hailed by *Washington Post* as: “infectious...joyful...unrivaled,” Moon August continues to be one of the most popular contemporary jazz groups in the region. With five recordings and countless performances under their belt, this dynamic Baltimore-based sextet offers an evening of remarkable jazz tunes.

July 25: Carl Grubbs

2009 BAKER ARTIST AWARD WINNER! Known for his razor-sharp and blazing bebop style, saxophonist Carl Grubbs delivers explosive performances often compared to the legendary John Coltrane, an early mentor to Carl and his late brother Earl. This long-time local favorite was voted “Best of Baltimore” for his 2003 CD *Stepping Around the Giant*.

August 1: Paula West

Back by popular demand, this award-winning vocalist has captured the hearts of critics and audiences alike. The Great American Songbook has never sounded as captivating as it does when West sings with her smoky, swinging vocals, creating whole new frameworks of meaning for American favorites—this concert is one not to miss!

—more—

August 22: Wayne Escoffery & Veneration

A rising star in the jazz world, this masterful tenor saxophonist leads a group of musicians through an evening of rich, soulful jazz. With an impressive command of the saxophone, Escoffery performs regularly with the Mingus Big Band and Ben Riley's Monk Legacy Septet.

August 29: Jeffery Smith featuring T. K. Blue

Experience the warm and expressive baritone of jazz vocalist Jeffery Smith in a style reminiscent of jazz legend Johnny Hartman. Joining him is the dynamic saxophonist T. K. Blue, hailed by *Washington Post* as a "saxophone virtuoso." With Smith's polished singing and Blue's Afro-centric rhythms, this duo can only be described as mind-blowing!

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Concerts are hosted by the BMA's Joshua Johnson Council. The Joshua Johnson Council is one of the oldest African-American support groups established by a major museum. Its mission is to forge meaningful connections between Baltimore's African-American communities and the Museum through events, programs, and workshops built around the BMA's collection of art by African-Americans and its distinguished African art collection.

In the event of rain, concerts are held in the BMA Meyerhoff Auditorium. Please call the BMA Box Office at 443-573-1701 after 3 p.m. for an update.

If the concert is held indoors, Jazz+Dinner ticket holders must call Gertrude's at 410-889-3399 to make reservations for indoor seating or to obtain a rain check. No refunds or exchanges.

ABOUT THE BALTIMORE MUSEUM OF ART

The Baltimore Museum of Art is home to an internationally renowned collection of 19th-century, modern, and contemporary art. Founded in 1914 with a single painting, the BMA today has 90,000 works of art—including the largest holding of works by Henri Matisse in the world—as well as outstanding collections of European and American fine and decorative arts, 15th- through 19th-century prints and drawings, works by established and emerging contemporary artists, and objects from Africa, Asia, the Ancient Americas, and Pacific Islands. Two beautifully landscaped gardens display an array of 20th-century sculpture that is an oasis in the city.

VISITOR INFORMATION

General admission to the BMA is free. Special exhibitions may be ticketed. The BMA is open Wednesday through Friday, 11 a.m.–5 p.m.; Saturday and Sunday, 11 a.m.–6 p.m. The Museum is closed Monday, Tuesday, New Year's Day, July 4, Thanksgiving, and Christmas. The BMA is located on Art Museum Drive at North Charles and 31st Streets, three miles north of Baltimore's Inner Harbor. For general Museum information, call 443-573-1700 or visit artbma.org.

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