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SAMMONS JAZZ CELEBRATES 30 YEARS OF GREAT LOCAL JAZZ BEGINNING WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 6 Iconic Concert Series Announces Spring 2019 Schedule

DALLAS/January 22, 2019 — Home to 14 performing arts groups, the Sammons Center for the Arts, 3630 Harry Hines at Oak Lawn, is perhaps best known for presenting its signature jazz concert series. Sammons Jazz, launched in 1989 as a pilot program, begins its 30th year of showcasing local jazz artists on Wednesday, February 6. A few tickets to the March and April concerts remain. Admission is \$50 person and includes beverages, a light dinner and valet parking. Tickets can be purchased by calling the Sammons Center at (214) 520-7788 or visiting www.sammonsartcenter.org.

“Sammons Jazz has proven to be a wonderful introduction to the Sammons Center,” said Executive Director Joanna St. Angelo. “Patrons hear an exceptional performance and are then eager to learn about the Center’s other programs that have positive impact on the local arts scene.”

Over the past 30 years, Sammons Jazz has grown into a multifaceted program that includes the original jazz concert series, community outreach, a Youth Jazz Outreach program and the Sammons Cabaret and Discovery series. Held on the first Wednesday of each month, February through May and September through December, the series has featured nearly 900 local legends and rising stars, from Marchel Ivery and Red Coleman to Norah Jones and Jazzmeia Horn. The series has also won acclaim for drawing an audience as diverse as the jazz genre.

The spring 2019 concert schedule, under the guidance of Artistic Director and Steinway Artist Arlington Jones, includes:

Wednesday, February 6, 7:30 p.m. — *Swinging Sticks (SOLD OUT)*. The classic sound of jazz clarinet takes center stage when the Chris McGuire Band opens the with a tribute to legends like Benny Goodman and Artie Shaw. In the second set, drummers Andrew Griffith and Jaelun Washington lead their group, Drum Off, in a set reminiscent of the drum battles mounted

by Elvin Jones and Max Roach. This concert is sponsored by Akin Gump Strauss Hauer & Feld LLP.

Wednesday, March 6, 7:30 p.m. — Leigh Tomlinson Memorial Concert. A timeless set by acclaimed vocalists Carolyn Lee Jones, Sandra Kaye, Heather Paterson and Tony Hakim opens this annual tribute to beloved jazz singer and Sammons Jazz volunteer Leigh Tomlinson. The all-star concert continues with a collaboration featuring innovative vocalists Garry Williams, Tatiana Mayfield, Candace “Mahogany” Miller and Damon K. Clark. This concert is sponsored by Dallas Door Designs.

Wednesday, April 3, 7:30 p.m. — Jazz Springs Eternal. Renowned jazz harpist Cindy Horstman fronts 2tone and the Dallas Jazz Harp Ensemble in this pleasing two-for-one opening set where strings of all kinds rule. Pianist and composer Dave Zoller and his group, Evidence, share their deep appreciation of Thelonious Monk by playing selections from their recordings of the jazz giant’s works.

Wednesday, May 1, 7:30 p.m. — Sammons Jazz Artistic Director’s Concert (SOLD OUT). To celebrate the 30th anniversary of Sammons Jazz, Arlington Jones & The Brethren honor the series’ past artistic directors: Vicho Vicencio (1989-1996), Roger Boykin (1996-1999) and James Gilyard (1999-2011). The concert also marks the release of the “Sammons Jazz Directors Cut” CD/DVD which includes music from all four artistic directors, interviews with those who helped to create and sustain the series, and . Local graphic designer Sarah Radicello created the cover artwork which was inspired by a painting done by her father, Bart Forbes. Forbes is a Sammons Jazz member and local visual artist whose work includes the Sarah Vaughan stamp for the United States Postal Service.

Other season sponsors are City of Dallas Office of Cultural Affairs, Corporate Business Solutions, Dallas Tourism Public Improvement District, Ben E. Keith Co., National Endowment for the Arts, TACA and the Texas Commission on the Arts with additional support from Goody Goody, Bart Marantz/Eye-BM-Photography, I-DEE Productions, The Kitchen Café and Preferred Parking.

For more information and tickets, call the Sammons Center at (214) 520-7788 or visit www.sammonsartcenter.org. *All artists and programs subject to change.*

About the Sammons Center for the Arts

The Sammons Center for the Arts was founded in 1981 to renovate the historic Turtle Creek Pump Station, built in 1909 at 3630 Harry Hines Boulevard, and operate it as a multipurpose arts center. After several years of renovation, the Sammons Center opened March 1, 1988. A 501(c)(3) organization, the Sammons Center is home to 14 performing arts groups representing dance, theater, orchestral music and choral music. It provides low-cost office, rehearsal, audition, meeting, workshop and performance space as well as administrative, operational and educational resources to its resident groups and more than 90 other nonprofit cultural organizations. For more information, call (214) 520-7788 or visit www.sammonsartcenter.org.

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