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Celebrating 35 Years of Jazz Excellence: Sammons Center for the Arts Marks a Pinnacle Anniversary for Sammons Jazz Program

DALLAS, TX — The Sammons Center for the Arts commemorates a spectacular milestone—35 years of unparalleled excellence in jazz performance, education, and community enrichment. Since its inception in 1989, Sammons Jazz has been a beacon of artistic innovation, nurturing a profound love for jazz that resonates vibrantly throughout the Dallas arts community.

"As we celebrate 35 years of the Sammons Jazz program, it's not merely a commemoration of our past; it's a testament to the enduring impact on our local artists," stated Joanna St. Angelo, Executive Director of the Sammons Center for the Arts. "Sammons Jazz has been a nurturing vehicle for dreams, a stage for gifted artists, and a testament to the vibrant cultural mosaic of our city. As we look forward, we carry this legacy with pride, fueled by the boundless talent of local jazz artists. Every note played, echoes a story of resilience, creativity, and the unifying power of jazz."

Legacy of Unrivaled Excellence:

For three and a half decades, the Sammons Jazz Program has been an undeniable force in shaping the jazz landscape of Dallas. From fostering emerging local talents to hosting legendary jazz icons, the program has consistently been at the forefront of promoting this uniquely American art form. More than 2,600 artists have graced our stages, presenting diverse styles of jazz—from the power of big band and bebop to the rhythmic allure of swing and Latin.

Community Resonance:

Sammons Jazz not only adds to the cultural richness of Dallas but also plays a pivotal role in engaging and inspiring diverse audiences. Through educational initiatives, workshops, and performances, the program has touched countless individuals, fostering a profound appreciation for the rich tapestry of jazz music and its legacy in North Texas.

Landmark Achievements:

Over the years, the Sammons Center for the Arts has achieved numerous milestones, including the establishment of Dallas Jazz Appreciation Month (D'JAM) in April each year as part of the

national program of the Smithsonian Institution, the Jazz Stroll in the Dallas Arts District, and the D’JAM Legends of Jazz Awards—honoring individuals across distinct categories for their positive impact on jazz in our community. . These accomplishments underscore the Sammons Center’s commitment to pushing boundaries and ensuring that jazz remains a vibrant and evolving art form.

A Spring Concert Series to Remember:

To mark this momentous occasion, the Sammons Center for the Arts proudly presents a remarkable spring concert series, featuring distinguished artists:

- *Wednesday, February 7, 2024:* Roger Boykin – String Quarter, Bill Lohr
- *Wednesday, March 6, 2024:* Heather Paterson, Sandra Kaye
- *Wednesday, April 3, 2024:* Brian Harmon, Stockton Helbing
- *Wednesday, May 1, 2024:* Arlington Jones – Artistic Director’s Concert

"As we craft this extraordinary lineup for our spring concert series, I am thrilled to present a diverse spectrum of musical brilliance that embodies the essence of Sammons Jazz," said Arlington Jones, the Artistic Director for Sammons Jazz. "Each artist brings a unique flavor to our celebration, creating a tapestry of sounds that honors our rich history and propels us into an exciting future. Join us on this musical journey as we pay homage to 35 years of jazz excellence and set the stage for a soul-stirring experience. It's not just a concert series; it's a celebration of the art form we hold dear in our hearts."

These concerts not only pay homage to the program's rich history but also set the stage for a dynamic future in jazz education and performances. We note that the Spring Season opens with a performance on February 7, 2024 by Roger Boykin who served as the Artistic Director of the Sammons Jazz Program from 1996 to 1999. He will be presenting his original Jazz String Quartet Compositions written during the pandemic and performed by some of his former students from Booker T Washington High School for the Performing and Visual Arts.

Join the Celebration:

As we celebrate 35 years of jazz excellence, the Sammons Center for the Arts warmly invites the community to partake in the festivities. Stay tuned for announcements, special performances, and opportunities to engage with the Jazz Program throughout this celebratory year.

About the Sammons Center for the Arts

Established in 1981 to renovate the historic Turtle Creek Pump Station, the Sammons Center for the Arts has since been at the heart of Dallas's art scene. From a prominent location at 3630 Harry Hines Boulevard, this 501(c)(3) nonprofit establishment hosts a diverse array of performing arts groups spanning dance, theater, orchestral, jazz, and choral music. In addition to offering affordable spaces for art-related activities, it serves as a reservoir of resources – administrative, operational, and educational – for sixteen resident groups and more than 100 other nonprofit cultural organizations. For more information, call (214) 520-7788 or visit www.sammonsartcenter.org.