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2015 Thelonious Monk Institute International Jazz Vocals Competition & All-Star Gala Concert to be Held November 14-15 in Los Angeles; Quincy Jones to Receive Herbie Hancock Humanitarian Award

Talent Includes Herbie Hancock, Seth MacFarlane, George Benson, Andy Garcia, Jeff Goldblum, Dee Dee Bridgewater, Arturo Sandoval, Patti Austin, Wayne Shorter, Al Jarreau and Many Others

Washington, D.C. — Presented by the Thelonious Monk Institute of Jazz, the **Thelonious Monk Institute International Jazz Vocals Competition and All-Star Gala Concert** will take place **November 14-15** in Los Angeles. This year's Competition will feature the world's most outstanding young jazz vocalists who will perform before a panel of jazz greats including Patti Austin, Dee Dee Bridgewater, Freddy Cole, Al Jarreau and Luciana Souza. Legendary producer, composer, bandleader and humanitarian Quincy Jones, a 27-time GRAMMY Award-winner, will receive the Institute's 2015 Herbie Hancock Humanitarian Award.

The Thelonious Monk Institute International Jazz Vocals Competition Semifinals will be held on Saturday, November 14 from 12 to 5 p.m. at Schoenberg Hall on the UCLA campus. Each semifinalist will perform for 15 minutes, accompanied by pianist Reginald Thomas, bassist Rodney Whitaker and drummer Carl Allen. Three finalists will be selected to participate in the Competition Finals on Sunday, November 15 at 7 p.m. at the Dolby Theatre in Hollywood. They will vie for scholarships and prizes totaling more than \$100,000 including a \$25,000 first place scholarship and a guaranteed recording contract with Concord Music Group.

Immediately following the three finalists' performances at the Competition Finals, an All-Star Gala Concert on Sunday, November 15 will bring together some of the most renowned artists of our time in tribute to Quincy Jones. **Herbie Hancock, Andy Garcia, Jeff Goldblum and Seth MacFarlane** will host the event. Artists confirmed to date include **Patti Austin, George Benson, Dee Dee Bridgewater, Terri Lyne Carrington, Freddy Cole, Dave Grusin, Jimmy Heath, Paul Jackson, Jr., Al Jarreau, Hubert Laws, Gretchen Parlato, Arturo Sandoval, Wayne Shorter, Luciana Souza, Jeff "Tain" Watts, Ben Williams** and others. **John Beasley** will serve as the evening's musical director.

Also performing in the festivities will be the seven gifted young musicians who attend the Thelonious Monk Institute of Jazz Performance graduate level college program at the UCLA Herb Alpert School of Music.

At the All-Star Gala Concert, the Institute will present its prestigious Herbie Hancock Humanitarian Award to Quincy Jones. The Herbie Hancock Humanitarian Award is given to extraordinary individuals who have made tremendous contributions toward the betterment of mankind. Quincy Jones embodies the word "humanitarian" with all that he has done over the years to make this earth a better place for people around the world. From the victims of Hurricane Sandy to the millions of Ethiopians who benefited from an enormous outpouring of support through his "We Are The World" famine relief initiative, he has always been there to lend moral as well as financial support for those facing life's greatest challenges.

Hancock said, "Congratulations to my dear friend Quincy Jones on being honored by the Thelonious Monk Institute of Jazz. I have known Q for over 50 years and there is no one more deserving of this award. I am always in awe of his superior talent, taste, creativity, and contributions to cultural innovation and charitable

causes. For many decades now, he has continued to support, encourage, and nurture the younger generation of musical artists, and, now at the age of 82, Quincy is just getting started. He's got the energy, the drive and the intense desire to ensure that the global cultural contributions of our youth will be a major factor in uplifting the human spirit for many generations to come.”

Jones began his career in the world of blues and jazz, from his early friendship with Ray Charles to traveling to Europe with Lionel Hampton at the age of 19. In the 1950s, he toured as trumpeter and musical director of the Dizzy Gillespie Big Band to the Middle East and South America through the U.S. State Department.

Over the years, Jones has worked with jazz greats including Ella Fitzgerald, Billy Eckstine, Sarah Vaughan and Dinah Washington. He also produced Miles Davis' last CD featuring his live performance at the Montreux Jazz Festival. Most recently, he produced the documentary “Keep On Keepin' On” about his mentor Clark Terry and young jazz pianist Justin Kauflin's experience as a semifinalist in the 2011 Thelonious Monk Institute International Jazz Competition.

The Thelonious Monk Institute International Jazz Competition, often compared in stature to classical music's International Tchaikovsky Competition and Van Cliburn International Piano Competition, is widely regarded as the world's most prestigious jazz competition. Each year, the Competition features a different musical instrument, and major scholarships and prizes are awarded to talented young musicians. For 28 years, the competition has launched the careers of a number of major jazz artists including saxophonist Joshua Redman; vocalists Cécile McLorin Salvant, Jane Monheit and Gretchen Parlato; pianist Marcus Roberts; bassist Ben Williams; and trumpeter Ambrose Akinmusire. These artists and dozens of others from past competitions have forged successful careers as performing and recording artists, as well as music educators to help perpetuate America's legacy of jazz.

Proceeds from the Thelonious Monk Institute International Jazz Vocals Competition and All-Star Gala Concert will support the Institute's public school jazz education programs across the U.S. and around the globe. All of the Institute's education programs are provided free of charge to students, schools and communities worldwide. Air transportation is provided by United Airlines, Official Airline of the Thelonious Monk Institute of Jazz.

Thelonious Monk Institute of Jazz

The Thelonious Monk Institute of Jazz is a nonprofit education organization established in 1986. Its mission is to offer the world's most promising young musicians college level training by internationally acclaimed jazz masters and to present school-based music education programs for young people around the world. The Institute preserves, perpetuates and expands jazz as a global art form, and utilizes jazz as a means to unite people of all ages, backgrounds and nationalities. All of the Institute's programs are provided free of charge to students, schools and communities worldwide. The Institute's programs help fill a tremendous void in arts education left by budget cuts in public school funding, and use jazz as the medium to encourage imaginative thinking, creativity, a positive self-image, and respect for one's own and others' cultural heritage. Jazz great **Herbie Hancock** serves as the Institute's chairman. www.monkinstitute.org.

Thelonious Monk International Jazz Competition

Since 1987, the Thelonious Monk Institute of Jazz has presented the Thelonious Monk Institute International Jazz Competition, recognized as the world's most prestigious jazz competition and for discovering the next generation of jazz masters. Each year, major scholarships and prizes are awarded to the talented young musicians. The scholarships help pay tuition for college-level jazz education studies and provide funds for private, specialized instruction. Past judges have included Diana Krall, Branford Marsalis, Slide Hampton, Christian McBride, Hugh Masekela, Roy Haynes, Pat Metheny and many others.

Editors, please note the following event and ticket information:

Thelonious Monk Institute International Jazz Vocals Competition Semifinals

Saturday, November 14, 2015, 12:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. - UCLA Schoenberg Hall, Los Angeles
Tickets are free of charge and will be distributed at 11 a.m. on a first-come basis.

Thelonious Monk Institute International Jazz Vocals Competition Finals & All-Star Gala Concert
Sunday, November 15, 2015, 7 p.m. - Dolby Theatre, Hollywood
Tickets start at \$40 and may be purchased at dolbytheatre.com. For premium orchestra level tickets and tax-deductible gala packages, visit monkinstitute.org/gala or call **202-364-7272**.

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