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OUTREACH ACTIVITIES: Smithsonian Jazz Masterworks Orchestra

(revised September 2005) p. 1 of 2

The Artistic and Musical Director_____

David Baker an internationally famous as a composer, conductor, performer, author, and educator. He holds the position of Distinguished Professor of Music and Chairman of the Jazz Department at the Indiana University School of Music, a program he has headed since 1966. A veteran of the bands of George Russell, Quincy Jones, Stan Kenton, Maynard Ferguson, and Lionel Hampton, he has transcribed and conducted works from the historical repertory of jazz since 1975. He is the author of over seventy books on jazz, including the classic *Jazz Improvisation*; co-editor of *The Black Composer Speaks*; and editor of *New Perspectives on Jazz*. His most recent publication is Volume 76 in the Jamey Aebersold play-along Jazz Series *How To Learn Tunes - A Jazz Musician's Survival Guide*. His compositions, ranging from jazz and sonatas to film scores, have been commissioned by Janos Starker, Josef Gingold, the St. Paul Chamber Orchestra, the Beaux Arts Trio, the New York Philharmonic, the Smithsonian Institution and others.

Mr. Baker served on the National Council for the Arts; he was elected to the *Down Beat* Jazz Education Hall of Fame in 1994. In 2000, David Baker was awarded the American Jazz Masters Fellowship Award by the National Endowment for the Arts, joining the company of distinguished artists Dizzy Gillespie, Miles Davis, Benny Carter, Sarah Vaughan, and Horace Silver. He has more than 65 recordings and 400 articles to his credit. In 2001, he received the Smithsonian's James Smithson Bicentennial Medal for his distinguished contribution to elevating the nation's appreciation for one of America's greatest national treasures - Jazz. He has received the Indiana Historical Society's Living Legacy Award, and was chosen as Chair of the Faculty for the Stean's Institute for Young Artists- Program for Jazz at the Ravinia Festival and past president of the *International Association for Jazz Education*.

The Band_____

The Smithsonian Jazz Masterworks Orchestra was founded in 1990 with an appropriation from the U.S. Congress in recognition of the importance of jazz in American culture and its status as a national treasure. The orchestra, led by Artistic and Musical Director David N. Baker, serves as the Orchestra-in-residence at the National Museum of American History, Division of Cultural History. The orchestra re-creates big band jazz as its composers intended it to be played, stripping away intervening changes and alterations. The SJMO has rediscovered old classics, premiered new discoveries, and brought to the public seldom-heard works of genius. The result is exciting and invigorating.

Composed of 17 musicians drawn from across the United States, the big band plays authentic and compelling performances of the music of **Duke Ellington, Count Basie, Benny Goodman, Miles Davis/Gil Evans**, and other masters. The SJMO presents a concert season in the nation's capital, presents educational workshops, tours nationally and internationally.

To Contact Us_____

Education activities are dependent upon the travel schedule of the Smithsonian Jazz Masterworks Orchestra. For more information and fee structure contact:

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Visit our web site at www.sjmo.org

For General Audiences: Jazz Appreciation and History_____

■ ***What is Jazz?***

Audience: General audience; or grades K-5, 6-8, or 9-12. This session shows what jazz is and isn't. David Baker and selected musicians from the orchestra demonstrate what "swing" is, what the blues are, how players create their own tone and sound, and, in a clear and engaging way, demystify improvisation.

■ ***A Journey through Jazz***

Audience: General audience, or instrumental students. Maestro Baker and eight to ten members of the SJMO demonstrate the evolution of jazz styles from traditional jazz, swing, bebop, hard bop to cool, modal, soul jazz and Latin jazz.

■ ***Meet the Jazz Orchestra***

Audience: Grades K-5, 6-8, or 9-12. Maestro Baker and members of the Orchestra discuss and demonstrate the instruments of the jazz orchestra and explain the mutes, hats, plungers, and other performance techniques used to generate different sound qualities.

■ **Pre-Concert Lectures**

Audience: General audience. David Baker, and members of the SJMO are available to speak at pre-concert settings or for other events during the Orchestra's visit. Contact the SJMO staff to discuss topics, speakers, and availability.

For Musicians: Clinics, Master Classes, and Coaching_____

■ **Master Classes**

Audience: Grades 9-12 or college. David Baker and members of the SJMO listen to and critique higher-level music students on technique, style, and other aspects of jazz performance. The sessions can be dedicated to open private lessons, to sections (e.g., the trumpet section), or to entire ensembles (small or large).

■ **Clinics for Students**

Audience: high school or college instrumental students. Maestro Baker and members of the SJMO present interactive workshops on a variety of topics: improvisation, accompanying, ensemble playing, arranging, learning tunes, and transcribing.

■ **Clinics for Music Teachers**

Audience: high school or college instrumental teachers. Topics include: organizing an ensemble, rehearsal techniques, selecting appropriate materials, identifying and correcting errors, programming a concert, et al.

■ **Coaching**

Audience: high school or college instrumental students. Maestro Baker and SJMO musicians listen to and critique individual performers.