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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: December 3, 2007

**THE MONTEREY JAZZ FESTIVAL CELEBRATES ITS 50TH ANNIVERSARY AT
CAL PERFORMANCES WITH AN ALL-STAR BAND FEATURING
TERENCE BLANCHARD, JAMES MOODY AND NNENNA FREELON
SATURDAY, JANUARY 12 AT 8:00 P.M.**

BERKELEY, December 3, 2007—The Monterey Jazz Festival's 50th Anniversary **Tour** stops at Cal Performances for a concert featuring a roster of accomplished musicians on **Saturday, January 12, at 8:00 p.m. in Zellerbach Hall.** The concert showcases the long history of artistic excellence and sophisticated informality for which the Monterey Jazz Festival (MJF) has gained international fame. Chosen for their devotion to spreading jazz around the world, outstanding leadership abilities and masterful performing skills, the 50th Anniversary band celebrates the MJF's golden moment as the world's longest-running jazz festival. Each band member is an MJF veteran, and they have made, collectively, 28 appearances at the Festival. These musicians "embody the past, present and future of jazz history," says Monterey Jazz Festival General Manager **Tim Jackson.** Trumpeter **Terence Blanchard**, who was Artist-in-Residence of the 2007 MJF, is joined by saxophonist **James Moody**, pianist **Benny Green**, bassist **Derrick Hodge**, drummer **Kendrick Scott** and special guest vocalist **Nnenna Freelon.** The program will be announced from the stage.

MONTEREY JAZZ FESTIVAL

The Monterey Jazz Festival is internationally recognized as one of the world's most important annual jazz events. Begun in 1957 by **Jimmy Lyons**, the MJF developed its stellar reputation by consistently presenting the finest artists in jazz—who perform by invitation only—in an intimate, informal setting to a devoted and knowledgeable audience. Since 1966, all-star bands have been part of the Festival. Over the years, these bands have included Gil Evans, Gerry Mulligan, Elvin Jones, Dizzy Gillespie, Clark Terry, Ray Brown, Sonny Stitt, Max Roach, John Lewis, Shelly Manne, Bobby Hutcherson, Hank Jones, Milt Jackson, among many others. Until now, however, these all-star configurations could be heard only by the fortunate few who had secured coveted Festival tickets. The 50th Anniversary Tour marks the first time that an MJF band has toured the United States. "We wanted to create a lasting legacy for our 50th

MORE

anniversary,” says Jackson. “We’ve had all-star groups in the past... but they’ve never gone on a multiple-week tour in the U.S., so this is an historic occasion for us.”

Another reason that the Festival enjoys such an exalted status is its empowerment and support of its artists. Jimmy Lyons appointed John Lewis, the pianist of the Modern Jazz Quartet, as Artistic Director in 1959—a position he held until the early 1980s—to commission new works by some of the jazz world’s best composers. Newly commissioned works became a defining feature of the MJF, with pieces from the likes of Dave Brubeck, Jon Hendricks, Gerald Wilson and others taking center stage. When Lyons retired in 1992, his successor, Tim Jackson, created the Artist-in-Residence program in an effort to continue this legacy. In 2007, the MJF commissioned a major new work from Artist-in-Residence **Terence Blanchard**, *A Tale of God’s Will: A Requiem for Katrina*, which was given its debut performance by the Monterey Jazz Festival Symphony Orchestra and the 50th Anniversary all-star band in September.

THE BAND

Grammy Award-winning trumpeter **Terence Blanchard** is MJF’s 2007 Artist-in-Residence, and has appeared at MJF in 1999 and 2004 with his own groups. Terence is a strong supporter of jazz education and serves as Artistic Director of the Thelonious Monk Institute of Jazz Performance in New Orleans. Blanchard, New Orleans born and bred, was tutored by the legendary pianist and jazz patriarch Ellis Marsalis. In 1980, he received a music scholarship to Rutgers University, and in 1983, Wynton Marsalis recommended Blanchard as his replacement in Art Blakey’s Jazz Messengers, the influential and explosive hard-bop “university” which had been a musical proving ground for young jazz soloists and composers since the mid-1950s. By 1985, Blanchard left Blakey’s group, forming a band with fellow Messenger and New Orleans native, saxophonist Donald Harrison, that would go on to record albums for the Concord, Evidence and Columbia labels, including the 1984 Grand Prix du Disque winner, *New York Second Line*. In 1990, Blanchard began a solo career as composer and performer. *The Wall Street Journal* has described Blanchard’s writing as “superb and heartfelt, his playing perfect.” His burgeoning output as a composer came to fruition through an association with film director and actor Spike Lee, who had recognized Blanchard’s talents in the late 1980s when he performed as a soloist on Lee’s soundtracks to *School Days*, *Do the Right Thing* and *Mo’ Better*

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Blues. Starting with 1991's *Jungle Fever*, some of Blanchard's compositional work for Lee's screen and television films include *Malcolm X*, *Crooklyn*, *Clockers*, *Get on the Bus*, *Summer of Sam*, *Bamboozled*, *She Hate Me*, *Inside Man* and 2006's four-hour Hurricane Katrina documentary for HBO, *When the Levees Broke: A Requiem in Four Acts*. Blanchard's trumpet can be heard on nearly 50 film scores; 40 bear his unmistakable compositional style.

In addition to his soundtracks, Blanchard recorded eight solo albums for the Columbia and Sony Classical labels and two for Blue Note, all of which were met with critical acclaim. Lauded for both his soundtracks and small-group work, Blanchard's awards for his contributions to film include multiple Emmy and Golden Globe nominations and instrumental Grammy nominations. In 2005, Blanchard won a Grammy for Best Jazz Instrumental Album for his participation on McCoy Tyner's *Illuminations*.

Named NEA Jazz Master in 1998, **James Moody** has appeared at Monterey six times since 1962, where he has performed with Quincy Jones, Dizzy Gillespie, the Preservation BeBop Jazz Band, the Terence Blanchard Sextet, the MJF 50th Anniversary band, and others. He also performed a special free concert to celebrate MJF's 40th anniversary in 1997. Moody has delighted audiences for over 60 years with his vitality and innovative playing. James Moody was inducted into the International Jazz Hall of Fame and has received an honorary doctorate in music from the Berklee College of Music. On the occasion of his 80th birthday in 2005, Moody was honored throughout the world with a series of concerts. Born in Savannah, Georgia, in 1925, and raised in Newark, New Jersey, James Moody took up the saxophone at the age of 16. Following his discharge from the United States Air Force in 1947, Moody joined the influential bebop big band of Dizzy Gillespie. In 1949, he recorded the masterpiece for which he is best known, "Moody's Mood for Love." The song became a huge instrumental hit in the United States and was later recorded with lyrics. In 1963, he rejoined Gillespie, performing in the trumpeter's quintet for the remainder of the decade. Moody's career received a boost in the mid-1980s with a Grammy Award nomination for this solo on Manhattan Transfer's *Vocalese* album. In the 1990s, he again teamed up with Gillespie to tour Europe and the United States as a member of the famous United Nations Orchestra, whose live recording at The Royal Festival Hall in London received a Grammy Award for Best Jazz Big Band Release. James Moody

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remains one of the most sought-after artists for master classes, workshops and lectures, inspiring young talent through his high standard of musicianship, positive outlook on life and ability to communicate his experiences in and around the jazz world.

Vocalist **Nnenna Freelon** is a six-time Grammy Award nominee. The *Los Angeles Times* has placed Nnenna “in the very top echelon” of singers. She has performed at MJF four times since 1994, and was a featured artist at the Next Generation Festival in 2002. In 2001, she inspired an enthusiastic standing ovation from 20,000 music-industry insiders and celebrities when she took to the stage at the 43rd annual Grammy Awards telecast from Los Angeles. Nnenna made her feature film acting debut in the Mel Gibson hit, *What Women Want*, and sang a remake of Sinatra’s classic, “Fly Me to the Moon” for *The Visit*, starring Billy Dee Williams. She is also a winner of the Eubie Blake Award, and has twice been nominated for the “Lady of Soul” Soul Train Award. In addition to her performing activities, Freelon has dedicated herself to the education of the young, touring the United States for four years as the National Spokesperson for Partners in Education and giving master classes and workshops teaching dedication and perseverance. Her anthem “One Child at a Time,” which calls attention to the needs of children in education, has been used by countless organizations including local, regional and national groups such as the United Way.

Pianist and Musical Director **Benny Green** and MJF go back to 1978, when he performed as a 15-year-old student. Green grew up in Berkeley and has played at the Festival six times in four decades with the California High School All-Star Band, Ray Brown, the MJF 50th Anniversary all-star band and others. In 1987, at age 24, he joined Art Blakey’s Jazz Messengers, performing with the band for nearly three years. In 1993, Oscar Peterson selected Benny to be the first recipient of the City of Toronto’s Glenn Gould Protégé Prize in Music, and later that year he joined Ray Brown’s trio. Since 1997, Green has led his own groups, touring extensively and releasing more than a dozen albums under his own name. *The New York Times* describes Green’s playing as “funky and hard,” breathing “not only be-bop but Oscar Peterson’s virtuosic effusions as well.”

Bassist **Derrick Hodge** first performed at Monterey with Terence Blanchard in 2004. This year, he has performed extensively with Blanchard’s groups and with the MJF 50th

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Anniversary all-star band. Hodge, a native of Philadelphia, received his bachelor's degree in jazz composition and performance from Temple University. He has performed and/or recorded with artists as diverse as Donald Byrd, Terrell Stafford, Q-Tip, Mos Def, Timbaland, Jill Scott, Gerald Levert, Common, Kanye West, Andre 3000, Sade, Mulgrew Miller and Clark Terry. Hodge's most recent projects have included production work and orchestrations with Common and Kanye West for Common's album *Finding Forever*, which reached #1 in *Billboard*, and soundtracks for the films *Who the #\$%#@ Is Jackson Pollock?* and *Faubourg Tremé: A Story of Black New Orleans*, for which he was the music composer. He also contributed additional writing and scoring to Spike Lee's *When the Levees Broke*.

Drummer **Kendrick Scott** began playing at MJF with the Berklee/Monterey Quartet in 1999 and has performed at MJF seven times with such artists as the Crusaders, Terence Blanchard, Eldar and the MJF 50th Anniversary all-star band. Scott was born and raised in Houston, Texas, where he attended the famed High School for the Performing and Visual Arts and received the Clifford Brown/Stan Getz Fellowship of the International Association for Jazz Education and the National Foundation for the Advancement of the Arts. Upon graduation, He was awarded a scholarship to attend the Berklee College of Music in Boston, where, as an undergrad, he gigged with Pat Metheny, Gary Burton and Kenny Garrett. Since Berklee, he has worked with Joe Sample, Stefon Harris, Lizz Wright, Maria Schneider, David Sanborn and Dianne Reeves, among others. Scott released his first solo album, *The Source*, earlier this year.

TICKET INFORMATION

Tickets for **Monterey Jazz Festival All-Stars** on **Saturday, January 12** are **\$34.00**, **\$40.00** and **\$52.00**. Half-price tickets are available for purchase by UC Berkeley students; UC Berkeley Alumni Association members, UC faculty and staff, senior citizens, and other students receive a \$5 discount. For more information, call Cal Performances at (510) 642-9988 or visit the Cal Performances web site at www.calperformances.org.

For select performances, Cal Performances offers UCB student, faculty and staff, senior and community rush tickets. Rush tickets are announced two hours prior to a performance and are available in person only at the Ticket Office beginning one hour before the performance;

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quantities may be limited. Rush ticket sales are limited to one ticket per person, and all sales are cash only. Rush ticket prices are \$10.00 for UCB students; \$15.00 for UCB faculty and staff (UCB ID required) and seniors age 65 or older; and \$20.00 for all other community members. For more information call 510-642-9988, press 2 for the rush hotline, two hours prior to a performance only.

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CALENDAR EDITORS PLEASE NOTE:

CAL PERFORMANCES PRESENTS

Saturday, January 12 at 8:00 p.m.

Zellerbach Hall, UC Berkeley
Bancroft Way at Telegraph Ave., Berkeley

Jazz

Monterey Jazz Festival All-Stars

Terence Blanchard, trumpet

Nnenna Freelon, special guest vocalist

Benny Green, piano, musical director

James Moody, tenor saxophone, flute

Derrick Hodge, bass

Kendrick Scott, drums

Program: The Monterey Jazz Festival celebrates its 50th birthday with a performance by the Monterey Jazz Festival All-Stars lead by trumpeter Terence Blanchard

Tickets: \$34.00, \$40.00 and \$52.00, available through the Cal Performances Ticket Office at Zellerbach Hall; at (510) 642-9988 to charge by phone; at www.calperformances.org; and at the door.

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