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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: December 3, 2008

**BLUE NOTE 7 JAZZ ENSEMBLE CELEBRATES THE
70TH ANNIVERSARY OF BLUE NOTE RECORDS AT
CAL PERFORMANCES THURSDAY, JANUARY 15 AT 8:00 P.M.**

BERKELEY, December 3, 2008—Commemorating 70 years of great jazz, **Blue Note Records'** all-star septet performs at Cal Performances **Thursday, January 15 at 8:00 p.m.** in Zellerbach Hall. Under the musical leadership of pianist **Bill Charlap**, trumpeter **Nicholas Payton**, tenor saxophonist **Ravi Coltrane**, saxophonist/flutist **Steve Wilson**, guitarist **Peter Bernstein**, bassist **Peter Washington** and drummer **Lewis Nash** will be stopping in 51 cities throughout the United States. In conjunction with the birthday tour, the label has released *Mosaic: A Celebration of Blue Note Records*, a collection of its classic repertoire arranged and performed by members of Blue Note 7 band. The Berkeley concert will include works from the CD plus other material; program to be announced from the stage. Through good times and lean times, Blue Note Records has earned the reputation as “a recording company that retains its integrity and dedication to jazz” (*All About Jazz*).

BLUE NOTE RECORDS

Blue Note Records founder **Alfred Lion's** thirst for music led him to leave his native Berlin, Germany, and head to New York City in 1928. In the beginning, he worked on the docks and slept in Central Park while holding on to his dream of jazz. Eleven years later, Lion launched **Blue Note Records**, regarded by many as the premier jazz label. Lion, along with his childhood friend Francis Wolff, ran Blue Note for nearly 30 years, recording the greatest artists of the day: Fats Navarro, Bud Powell, John Coltrane, Miles David, Art Blakey, Herbie Hancock, Eric Dolphy, Clifford Brown, Wayne Shorter, Joe Henderson, Lou Donaldson, Kenny Dorham and many others. In 1965, Liberty Records bought Blue Note, and the label began down a path of multiple owners and hard times. Over the next two decades, Blue Note managed to hang on by

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distributing a series of reissues, previously unreleased material and the complete Blue Note collections of Thelonious Monk and the duo of Albert Ammons and Meade Lux Lewis. In 1984, the current owner, EMI Music Publishing, hired Bruce Lundvall to resurrect the label. The re-launch occurred at New York's Town Hall with the "One Night with Blue Note" concert featuring all-star bands of new and old Blue Note artists. Blue Note Records was again on steady ground; the label is still under Lundvall's leadership.

BLUE NOTE 7

For more than a decade, pianist and bandleader **Bill Charlap** has been forging a solo career as well as working with his trio made up of bassist Peter Washington and drummer Kenny Washington. The trio has released five albums for Blue Note Records—CDs celebrating the American songbook tradition, the songs of Hoagy Carmichael, Leonard Bernstein and George Gershwin—that have afforded Charlap increased visibility as one of jazz's leading pianists. Charlap's latest CD, *Live at the Village Vanguard*, his first live recording, has been nominated for a Grammy Award.

Trumpeter **Nicholas Payton** was born in New Orleans, Louisiana, to a musical family. Encouraged by a pianist singer mother and bass-playing father, he began playing alongside his father in the Young Tuxedo Brass Band at the age of nine. Payton has played throughout the United States and in Europe with many leading jazz musicians, including Clark Terry, Marcus Roberts, Jazz Futures II, Elvin Jones and the Rising Star circuit tour of Europe.

Born the second son of John and Alice Coltrane, tenor saxophonist **Ravi Coltrane** was named after Indian sitar legend Ravi Shankar. After graduating from the California Institute of the Arts with a degree in musical studies, Coltrane relocated to New York City and began playing with a variety of artists, such as Kenny Barron, Jon Lovano, Gerry Gibbs and Steve Coleman. In 2002, Coltrane launched his own recording

company, RKM Music. Most recently, he served as the driving force behind his mother Alice Coltrane's return to recording after a 26-year hiatus, prior to her death in 2007.

Guitarist **Peter Bernstein** has been an active and important member of the vibrant New York jazz scene since 1989. He participated in numerous recordings and performed at many festivals, concerts and clubs with musicians from all generations. In addition to his recording and touring, Bernstein has taught at The Juilliard School, Berklee College of Music, North Texas State University, the New School Jazz Program and the Jazz Conservatory in Amsterdam.

A native of Hampton, Virginia, alto saxophonist **Steve Wilson** has brought his distinctive sound to more than 100 recordings led by such celebrated and wide-ranging artists as Chick Corea, George Duke, Dave Holland, Dianne Reeves, Bill Stewart, James Williams and Mulgrew Miller among many others. He has performed with the acclaimed Dave Holland Quintet and was a member of Chick Corea's Grammy-winning sextet, Origin.

Born and raised in Los Angeles, California, **Peter Washington** began playing bass in junior high school. By the age of 14 he had already played a season with a community-based symphony orchestra. While studying at the University of California, Berkeley, he developed an interest in playing jazz and was soon freelancing in and around the San Francisco Bay area with John Handy, Bobby Hutcherson, Frank Morgan, Ernestine Anderson and others. In the late 1990s, he joined the Bill Charlap Trio.

Lewis Nash developed an early interest in music and began playing drums at age ten. He performed with local jazz groups, and by the time he turned 21, Nash became a sought after drummer in Phoenix, working with Sonny Stitt, Art Pepper, Red Garland, Lee Konitz, Barney Kessell and Slide Hampton. He was a member of the Tommy Flanagan Trio and is featured on seven CD recordings with the late piano master. During

this period, he also toured and recorded with both the Carnegie Hall Jazz Band and the Lincoln Center Jazz Orchestra.

TICKET INFORMATION

Tickets for **Blue Note Records 70th Anniversary Tour** on **Thursday, January 15** at **8 p.m.** in Zellerbach Hall are priced at **\$30.00, \$40.00** and **\$50.00**. Tickets are 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. Half-price tickets are available for purchase by UC Berkeley students. UC faculty and staff, senior citizens, other students and UC Alumni Association members receive a \$5 discount (Special Events excluded). 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; quantities may be limited. Rush ticket sales are limited to one ticket per person; 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 for all other community members. Information is available at (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

Thursday, January 15 at 8:00 p.m.

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

Jazz

Blue Note Records 70th Anniversary Tour

Bill Charlap, musical director/piano

Nicholas Payton, trumpet

Ravi Coltrane, tenor saxophone

Steve Wilson, alto saxophone/flute

Peter Bernstein, guitar

Peter Washington, bass

Lewis Nash, percussion

Program: Pianist Bill Charlap leads an all-star band featuring some of Blue Note Records' finest jazz musicians in celebration of the label's 70th anniversary.

Tickets: \$30.00, \$40.00 and \$50.00, 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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