



PRESENTS THE 2007 NEA JAZZ MASTERS



Ramsey Lewis with guests Toshiko Akiyoshi, Curtis Fuller, Jimmy Scott, Frank Wess, Phil Woods and special guest Nancy Wilson

The “Legends of Jazz Presents the 2007 NEA Jazz Masters” on BET J on Sunday, April 6th at 7PM EST and Thursday, April 10th at 10 AM EST

The **NEA Jazz Masters Awards** are the highest honors that our government bestows upon jazz musicians. These awards are given in recognition of this magnificent art form, so profoundly based in American culture and one of America's greatest gifts to the world.

TV Special & Webcast

“**LEGENDS OF JAZZ** Presents the 2007 NEA Jazz Masters” will be a one-hour special co-produced by LRSmedia and WTTW National Productions for broadcast in prime time on BET J with a simultaneous webcast on the LEGENDS OF JAZZ website. The program will premiere in early April 2008 in honor of Jazz Appreciation Month, and be available on the web for on-demand viewing throughout the month of April. Broadcast dates have yet to be announced but check the LEGENDS OF JAZZ website for details (www.legendsofjazz.net).

This prestigious music special honors the artistry of 2007’s biggest names in jazz while featuring intimate conversations and extraordinary performances by this year’s NEA Jazz Master honorees. The one-hour special will be produced with the same stunning visuals and audio quality, in HD with 5.1 Surround Sound, as the “LEGENDS OF JAZZ with Ramsey Lewis” TV series, a previous LRSmedia and WTTW National Productions effort.

2007 NEA Jazz Masters

Toshiko Akiyoshi is among the first successful female pianists in jazz. She has received 14 Grammy nominations and was the first woman to win the Best Arranger and Composer awards in *Down Beat* magazine's Readers Poll.

Curtis Fuller is an accomplished jazz trombonist. Throughout his illustrious musical career he has played with the best including Cannonball Adderley, Yusef Lateef, Miles Davis, John Coltrane, Bud Powell, Jimmy Smith, Wayne Shorter, Dizzy Gillespie's band and Count Basie.

Page 2

Ramsey Lewis is one of the nation's most accomplished composers and jazz pianists. He topped the charts with "The In Crowd," "Hang On Sloop" and "Wade In The Water." He has three Grammy Awards and seven gold records to his credit. He is also a popular radio and television host. 2004 NEA Jazz Master Nancy Wilson makes a special appearance to interview Ramsey.

Dan Morgenstern is a jazz historian, author, editor and archivist. He was chief editor of *Down Beat* and he has been a jazz critic for the *New York Post*, *Chicago Sun-Times* as well as England's *Jazz Journal* and Japan's *Swing Journal*. Dan Morgenstern will not be included in the program.

'Lil' **Jimmy Scott's** highly-acclaimed magical, mystical voice rose to prominence in the Lionel Hampton Band in the late 1940s. Ray Charles's signed Jimmy to his own label proclaiming that Jimmy's singing was "what 'soul' is all about in singing long before anyone was using that word."

Frank Wess joined Count Basie's band, playing flute and tenor sax and won *Down Beat's* critic poll for flute from 1959 to 1964. He was a member of Clark Terry's band and has worked with Benny Carter, Billy Taylor, Mel Tormé and the Toshiko Akiyoshi Jazz Orchestra.

Phil Woods is an accomplished jazz saxophonist who has played with Benny Goodman, Benny Carter, Clark Terry, Michel Legrand, Thelonious Monk, Dizzy Gillespie and Charlie Barnet, to name a few. Phil has played to acclaim all over the world and he is a consistent poll winner.

About LRSmedia, LLC

LRSmedia, LLC, founded by music industry veterans Ramsey Lewis, Larry Rosen and Lee Rosenberg, develops adult-oriented music brands and products, created in multi-camera HDTV and Dolby Surround 5.1 audio. LRSmedia markets its product through a 360° experience including television, national print, nationally syndicated radio, CD and DVD products, online entertainment, news and e-commerce, live concert tours and educational and community outreach programs. In 2006 LRSmedia produced "LEGENDS OF JAZZ with Ramsey Lewis," the 13-part weekly series, which marked the return of jazz to network television for the first time in 40 years. The series aired on more than 250 PBS stations nationwide and continues to air on more than 100 PBS stations nationwide. For more information, visit www.lrsmedia.net and www.legendsofjazz.net.

Contact:

Nina Newhouser

VP, Marketing

LRSmedia

nnewhouser@lrsmedia.net

(312)329-9300 x235



LRSmedia 350 W. Hubbard Street Suite 610 Chicago, IL 60610 312.329.9300

