



THE CITY OF SAN DIEGO

Public Library

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Thursday, February 15, 2007

MEDIA CONTACT: Vic Cardell
619-236-5810

San Diego Public Library to Offer Film and Discussion Series on Jazz *Six-Part Program will be Held at the Central Library in Spring 2007*

SAN DIEGO – The City of San Diego Public Library is one of 43 libraries nationwide to offer the documentary film viewing and discussion series, “Looking At: Jazz, America’s Art Form.” The program features six curated viewing and discussion programs accompanied by a selection of compelling documentary films, essays written by eminent scholars, and an extensive resource guide for additional reading, Web sites, videos and DVDs.

“Looking At: Jazz” explores the history of jazz, an art form that evolved in the 20th century to occupy a unique place in American cultural history. Themes for the six programs in the series are: “New Orleans and the Origins of Jazz”; “The Jazz Age and Harlem as a Center for Jazz.”; “Jazz Vocalists”; “The Jazz Swing Era”; “Jazz Innovators: From Bebop, to Hard Bop, to Cool and More”; and “Latin Jazz and Jazz as an International Music.” Films to be viewed, either in part or in their entirety, include: “Ken Burns Jazz, Episodes 1 and 2”; “Harlem Renaissance: The Music & Rhythms That Started a Cultural Revolution”; “Lady Day: The Many Faces of Billie Holiday”; “Benny Goodman: Adventures in the Kingdom of Swing”; and Celebrating Bird: The Triumph of Charlie Parker.” The six events will be held at the Central Library from March through May 2007. More information about the program is available at <http://www.nvr.org/lookingatjazz>.

Additional jazz-related events will be held by the San Diego Public Library and its partnering institutions in this venture, San Diego State University’s School of Music and Dance, which has the largest jazz studies program in California, and KSDS Jazz 88.3, San Diego’s premier jazz radio station, affiliated with San Diego City College.

The San Diego Public Library was chosen for the program by Re:New Media, in partnership with the American Library Association. The National Endowment for the Humanities provides support for “Looking At: Jazz.” A total of 43 nonprofit institutions were selected to participate. Each one has received materials and resources (films, written materials, publicity materials, access to an electronic discussion list and project Web site), inclusion in a training workshop, and a cash grant of \$1,000.

###

The City of San Diego Public Library – Your Link to the Past and Gateway to the Future
www.sandiegolibrary.org

-- more --

Looking At: Jazz, America's Art Form

Calendar of Events

March through May 2007

The San Diego Public Library will present "Looking At: Jazz, America's Art Form," a six-part initiative featuring curated viewing and discussion programs. These events will be accompanied by a selection of compelling documentary films, essays written by eminent scholars, and an extensive resource guide for additional reading, Web sites, videos and DVDs. Each program will last about two hours, including a 15-to-20 minute introductory presentation, one hour of viewing, and a 45-minute discussion. Programs will be moderated by local jazz scholars. The events will be held in the third floor auditorium of the Central Library, located at 820 E St. in downtown San Diego. All events are open to the public, and admission is free. For more information, contact the Central Library at 619-236-5800.

• **March 18 at 2 p.m.: New Orleans and the Origins of Jazz**

Film: Excerpts from "Ken Burns Jazz, Episode 1: Gumbo, Beginnings to 1917" (Ken Burns, 2000)

Jazz emerged in the late 1800s in the cosmopolitan port city of New Orleans. A former colony of both France and Spain, the coastal city was home to an astounding variety of cultures and people, making it fertile ground for the birth of an art form. Despite the recent devastation of Hurricane Katrina, the legacy of New Orleans and jazz survives and continues to thrive. Leading the discussion will be Jerry Fenwick, a professor of music at San Diego City College.

• **April 1 at 2 p.m.: The Jazz Age and Harlem as a Center for Jazz**

Films: "Harlem Renaissance: The Music & Rhythms That Started a Cultural Revolution" (Marino Amoruso, 2003)

Excerpts from "Ken Burns Jazz, Episode 2: The Gift, 1917-1924" (Ken Burns, 2000)

In the first two decades of the 20th century, the United States, African-Americans took part in the Great Migration to the North. The story of jazz embraces America's cities. Early jazz pioneers such as trumpeter and vocalist Louis Armstrong, ultimately transformed early jazz, turning it into a fine art. Leading the discussion will be Richard Thompson, a music professor at San Diego State University.

• **April 22 at 2 p.m.: The Jazz Swing Era**

Film: "Benny Goodman: Adventures in the Kingdom of Swing" (Oren Jacoby, 1993)

The height of popularity for jazz came with the Swing Era, which lasted through the Depression and World War II. In the 1930s, Americans, facing the greatest economic calamity in their history, drew on swing as a respite from worry. Swing eventually became the popular music of wartime America with dance bands led by Duke Ellington, Count Basie, Artie Shaw, Benny Goodman and others. Leading the discussion will be Rick Helzer, a music professor at San Diego State University.

• **April 29 at 2 p.m.: Jazz Vocalists**

Film: "Lady Day: The Many Faces of Billie Holiday" (Matthew Seig, 1991)

Women's collaboration and interaction with their male counterparts changed the music for the better. Women jazz and blues singers such as Bessie Smith, Billie Holiday and Ella Fitzgerald and instrumentalists like trumpet player Clora Bryant loved the music and its people too much not to be heard. They employed intelligence, wit and intense expressivity and their presence contributed new approaches to sound, melody, rhythm, text and performance style. Leading the discussion will be Rick Helzer, a music professor at San Diego State University.

-- more --

• **May 6 at 2 p.m.: Jazz Innovators: From Bebop, to Hard Bop, to Cool and More**

Film: “Celebrating Bird: The Triumph of Charlie Parker” (Gary Giddens, 1987)

Mid-century jazz is marked by rapid innovations. One of the most innovative periods in jazz history intersected with profound social and cultural shifts related to diverse groups in American society staking a claim for greater social and political opportunity in the United States in the 1960s. Leading the discussion will be Richard Thompson, a music professor at San Diego State University.

• **May 20 at 2 p.m.: Latin Jazz and Jazz as an International Music**

Film: Excerpts from “A Night in Havana: Dizzy Gillespie in Cuba” (John Holland, 1988)

Another experimental trajectory for jazz began in 1939 when a young Dizzy Gillespie was influenced by friend and band mate Mario Baize, who introduced him to Afro-Cuban rhythms. The two were joined by others to create Latin jazz, a highly danceable blend of Latin rhythms, jazz harmony and improvisation. Leading the discussion will be Jerry Fenwick, a professor of music at San Diego City College.

Affiliated Events

(All events are free and open to the public unless indicated otherwise)

San Diego Public Library

Sun., Mar. 25, 2:30 p.m., Central Library, 3rd floor auditorium

Concert: Richard Thompson, jazz piano

Wed., May 9, 7:00 p.m., Pacific Beach Branch Library

Concert: Featuring Lori Bell, jazz flute

Sat., June 9, 12:00 p.m., Beckwourth Branch Library

Film: *A Night in Havana: Dizzy Gillespie in Cuba*

Jazz Concerts at San Diego State University

Sat., Mar. 17, 2:00 p.m., SDSU Jazz Orchestra with guest artist Pete Christlieb, saxophone, Smith Recital Hall. Admission: \$12.00, general; \$8.00, all students

Tues., Mar. 20, 6:00 p.m., SDSU Jazz Combo I, Smith Recital Hall

Mon., Apr. 23, 12:00 p.m., SDSU Jazz Combo II, Smith Recital Hall

Mon., Apr. 23, 6:00 p.m., SDSU Jazz Orchestra, Smith Recital Hall. Admission: \$10.00

Mon., Apr. 23, 7:30 p.m., SDSU Jazz Orchestra, Smith Recital Hall: Admission: \$10.00

Tues., Apr. 24, 7:00 p.m., SDSU Jazz Ensemble, Smith Recital Hall

Wed., Apr. 25, 12:00 p.m., SDSU Jazz Combo III, Smith Recital Hall

Wed., Apr. 25, 7:00 p.m., SDSU Jazz Combo I, Smith Recital Hall

Thurs., Apr. 26, 7:00 p.m., SDSU Jazz Combos IV and V, Smith Recital Hall

KSDS, Jazz 88.3

Sat., Mar. 17, 8:30 a.m.-4:00 p.m., California Music Educators Jazz Festival, featuring middle schools & high schools, Saville Theater, City College,

Tues., Apr. 10, 8:00 p.m.: David "Fathead" Newman, Jazz Live, Saville Theater, City College. \$10 general admission; free to Jazz 88.3 members.

Thurs., Apr. 19, 5:00-8:00 p.m.: KSDS Listener Happy Hour, Park Manor Suites Hotel, 525 Spruce St., Hillcrest

Tues., May 8, 8:00 p.m.: Jazz Live, Saville Theater, City College. Artists to be announced. \$10 general admission; free to Jazz 88.3 members.

###

The City of San Diego Public Library – Your Link to the Past and Gateway to the Future
www.sandiegolibrary.org