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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

THE BMA PRESENTS JAZZ IN THE SCULPTURE GARDEN CONCERTS— MUSIC + ART IN PERFECT HARMONY

BALTIMORE, MD (April 21, 2011)—Join fellow jazz enthusiasts for the BMA’s popular Jazz in the Sculpture Garden summer concert series. This one-of-a-kind summer event features regional and national talents performing against a stunning backdrop of modern art in the Museum’s renowned Sculpture Garden. This year the concert series includes Don Braden featuring Vanessa Rubin, Dave Stryker Organ Quintet, Hendrik Meurkens Samba Jazz Quintet, Tim Green Quintet, and T.K. Blue Quintet featuring Allan Harris. These casual concerts take place on select **Saturdays in July and August at 7 p.m.** Tickets are \$25. Sample music clips of this year’s artists will be available in June at artbma.org.

The BMA provides intimate concert seating and an outdoor bar with sandwiches and drinks for purchase. Visitors are invited to bring their own picnics as well. For an extra-special evening, celebrity chef John Shields’ restaurant Gertrude’s offers Jazz+Dinner, an elegant three-course meal served on the terrace during the concert. Call 410-889-3399 for reservations, but hurry—these tickets sell out quickly as BMA Members receive priority reservations. In addition to the concert, explore the connection between art and music through the BMA’s pre-concert Twilight Tours at 5 p.m. As part of the tour, gain early entry to the Sculpture Garden and enjoy a glass of wine selected by Gertrude’s. Tickets for the concert + tour are \$35.

Tickets go on sale to the public Wednesday, June 15, and are available in person at the BMA Box Office, by phone at 800-919-6272, or online at artbma.org. (Service charges apply for phone and online orders.) Concerts usually sell out; advance ticket purchase is strongly recommended. In the event of rain, concerts are held in the BMA’s Meyerhoff Auditorium. Call 443-573-1701 after 4 p.m. on the day of the concert for updates. Weather permitting, additional tickets will be released at this time.

This summer’s line-up includes:

JULY 2 – DON BRADEN featuring VANESSA RUBIN

Hailed by *The New York Times* as “brilliant and assured,” award-winning saxophonist Don Braden is known for his soulful, imaginative notes, as well as being the music supervisor for the ’80s CBS sitcom “The Cosby Show.” Braden partners with premiere vocalist Vanessa Rubin, dubbed by *Essence* magazine as one of the “Diva Nouvelles” due to her mesmerizing voice reminiscent of Billie Holiday.

JULY 23 – THE DAVE STRYKER ORGAN QUINTET

Dave Stryker is “one of the most distinctive guitarists to come along in recent years,” according to the *Village Voice*. Stryker honed his skills while playing with legendary saxophonist Stanley Turrentine at major festivals, concert halls, and clubs throughout the world. Now he leads his own quintet to a perfect blend of inventive melody and rhythmic drive.

JULY 30 – THE HENDRIK MEURKENS SAMBA JAZZ QUINTET

Often compared to the legendary harmonica player Toots Thielemans, Hendrik Meurkens’ trademark harmonica and vibraphone explores the full terrain of Brazilian jazz. After moving to Rio in the early ’80s, Meurkens became a regular performer at the popular Rio club, Bar 21, where he met and collaborated with several Brazilian performers. He has since recorded over a dozen albums featuring his distinctive fusion of harmonica and Samba.

—more—

AUGUST 13 – THE TIM GREEN QUINTET

Influenced by jazz greats Herbie Hancock and Terrence Blanchard, native Baltimorean saxophonist Tim Green reshapes familiar melodies into graceful harmonies that marry gospel and jazz. Among his numerous accomplishments, Green has performed at the Grammys, recorded for the R&B group *Destiny's Child*, and toured with the legendary Herbie Hancock.

AUGUST 20 – T.K. BLUE QUINTET featuring ALLAN HARRIS

Local favorite T.K. Blue returns with his quintet to accompany world-class baritone, guitarist, and songwriter Allan Harris. Lauded as a "saxophone virtuoso" by the *Washington Post*, T. K. Blue is known for his soaring and engagingly melodic style influenced by Afro-centric rhythms. Blue's notes are highlighted by the smooth, multilayered vocals of Allan Harris who is a three-time winner of *New York* magazine's award for "Outstanding Jazz Vocalist."

Concerts are hosted by the BMA's Joshua Johnson Council. Media sponsors are *City Paper*, WEAA 88.9 FM, and WYPR 88.1 FM.

Tickets go on sale Wednesday, June 15.

TICKET PRICES	General Public	BMA Members
Single Concert*	\$25	\$18
Single Concert+Tour*	\$35	\$23
5 Concerts*	\$115	\$80
5 Concerts+Tours*	\$165	\$105
Jazz+Dinner	\$70	\$63
Jazz+Dinner+Tour	\$80	\$68

*Kids 12 & under FREE (tickets required).

IN THE EVENT OF RAIN

Concerts are held in the BMA Meyerhoff Auditorium. Please call the BMA Box Office at 443-573-1701 after 4 p.m. for an update. If the concert is held indoors, Jazz+Dinner ticket holders must call Gertrude's at 410-889-3399 to make reservations for indoor seating or to obtain a rain check. No refunds or exchanges.

JOSHUA JOHNSON COUNCIL

The Joshua Johnson Council is one of the oldest African-American support groups established by a major museum. Its mission is to forge meaningful connections between Baltimore's African-American communities and the Museum through events, programs, and workshops built around the BMA's collection of art by African-Americans and its distinguished African art collection.

ABOUT THE BALTIMORE MUSEUM OF ART

The Baltimore Museum of Art is home to an internationally renowned collection of 19th-century, modern, and contemporary art. Founded in 1914 with a single painting, the BMA today has 90,000 works of art—including the largest holding of works by Henri Matisse in the world—as well as outstanding collections of European and American fine and decorative arts, 15th- through 19th-century prints and drawings, works by established and emerging contemporary artists, and objects from Africa, Asia, the Ancient Americas, and Pacific Islands. Two beautifully landscaped gardens display an array of 20th-century sculpture that is an oasis in the city.

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VISITOR INFORMATION

General admission to the BMA is free. Special exhibitions may be ticketed. The BMA is open Wednesday through Friday, 10 a.m.–5 p.m.; Saturday and Sunday, 11 a.m.–6 p.m. The Museum is closed Monday, Tuesday, New Year's Day, July 4, Thanksgiving, and Christmas. The BMA is located on Art Museum Drive at North Charles and 31st Streets, three miles north of Baltimore's Inner Harbor. For general Museum information, call 443-573-1700 or visit artbma.org.

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