FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
August 27, 2021

Hi res images available upon request

Hillwood hosts series of jazz programs in the gardens this September

Washington, D.C.—Hillwood Estate, Museum & Gardens is presenting a series of jazz performances in the gardens in September. Jazz in the Gardens: A Salute to Duke Ellington will be from 5:30 to 8:30 p.m. on Wednesday, September 8, followed by Jazz in the Gardens: Five Generations of Jazz Women from 5:30 to 8:30 p.m. on Wednesday, September 22.

Inspired by the special exhibition Roaring Twenties: The Life and Style of Marjorie Merriweather Post, which explores the Jazz Age through the lens of icon and Hillwood founder Marjorie Merriweather Post, the series brings to life the music of this era. In a nod to Post’s love of music and hosting performances at Hillwood, Jazz in the Gardens: A Salute to Duke Ellington will begin the series with an outdoor concert featuring the incredible music of D.C. native Duke Ellington, performed by D.C.’s own Marshall Keys Quintet. Guests will delight in hearing Ellington standards, while listening to a selection from Ellington’s personal archives, sharing his life “in his own words,” presented by Donna Limerick, executive producer. The summer gardens will also be open for touring, before guests can picnic on the spacious Lunar Lawn with delightful food and beverages from Merriweather To Go.

The second performance, Jazz in the Gardens: Five Generations of Jazz Women, features music from five generations of legendary jazz women, including Billie Holiday, Nina Simone, Shirley Horn, and Gerri Allen. Joining the Marshall Keys Quintet for this performance will be Christie Dashiell, vocalist.

This set of programs will be the first time Hillwood has presented jazz in the gardens, participating in the vibrant jazz community in Washington, D.C.

About the Artists
Marshall Keys plays the saxophone with a sense of grace and emotion that is wholly without cliché. He is a versatile musician with an expansive range, known for having a solid, soulful tone and for improvisations that begin simply before developing into elaborate, smartly constructed melodies. Keys received a National Endowment for the Arts grant and was commissioned by the Smithsonian to perform the music of Wayne Shorter. He was guest performer and lecturer at the Romare Bearden Exhibit at the National Gallery of Art. He has toured Africa and Central and South America for the State Department as a Jazz Ambassador and has played jazz festivals in the US, Germany, Ireland, Holland, Mexico, Panama, and Indonesia. Keys’ recent endeavors include playing in the
Washington National Cathedral Band and collaborating with saxophonist Paul Carr in the Carr/Keys project. He has worked with many of the world’s fine musicians including but finds the vibrant jazz community in Washington DC to be a continuing source of inspiration and motivation.

Donna Limerick, executive producer, is an award-winning documentary producer, with over 25 years’ experience producing programs for National Public Radio. As President and Executive Producer of North Star Communications, a radio syndication company she has partnered on projects with Ken Burns and Henry Louis Gates, Jr. Her television and radio productions include the music of Quincy Jones, Nancy Wilson, Duke Ellington, Dizzy Gillespie, Wynton Marsalis, and other jazz masters. She was the Concert Producer for “Evolution of the Blues,” written by vocalist Jon Hendricks. It debuted at the Monterey Jazz Festival in 1996 and then on to a worldwide tour featuring Jon Hendricks, Joe Williams, Diane Reeves, Abbey Lincoln, Kevin Mahogany, and trumpeter Roy Hargrove. She is currently a Lecturer/Consultant with the Smithsonian’s National Museum of African American History and Culture for an exhibit about her mother Mae Reeves (1912-2016) Hat Designer and entrepreneur. Her clients included Ella Fitzgerald, Lena Horne, and Marion Anderson.

Details

**Jazz in the Gardens: A Salute to Duke Ellington**
Wednesday, September 8, 2021, 5:30-8:30 p.m.
$20, $10 Hillwood members, $7 students, $5 children 6-18, free for children under 6
4155 Linnean Ave NW, Washington, D.C. 20008

**Jazz in the Gardens: Five Generations of Jazz Women**
Wednesday, September 22, 2021, 5:30-8:30 p.m.
$20, $10 Hillwood members, $7 students, $5 children 6-18, free for children under 6
4155 Linnean Ave NW, Washington, D.C. 20008

**COVID and Program Guidelines**

- This program takes place outdoors, with limited capacity.
- Picnicking on the Lunar Lawn is welcome at this program.
  - Food and drinks, including beer and wine, will be available for purchase from [Merriweather To Go](http://MerriweatherToGo).
  - Please note: Our liquor license does not allow patrons to bring in outside alcohol.
- Attendees must bring their own lawn chairs or picnic blankets. Hillwood will not provide these materials.
- See our [visitor guidelines](http://visitorguidelines) for information about how we are following the latest local and national guidance.
About Hillwood
When art collector, businesswoman, social figure, and philanthropist Marjorie Merriweather Post left to the public her northwest Washington, D.C. estate, she endowed the country with the most comprehensive collection of Russian imperial art outside of Russia, an exquisite 18th-century French decorative art collection, and 25 acres of serene landscaped gardens and natural woodlands. Opened as a public institution in 1977, today Hillwood Estate, Museum & Gardens offers a gracious and immersive experience unlike any other. Highlights of the collection include Fabergé eggs, Russian porcelain, Russian orthodox icons, Beauvais tapestries, and Sévres porcelain, and Post’s personal collection of apparel, accessories, and jewelry. Thirteen acres of enchanting formal gardens include a Japanese-style garden, rose garden, French parterre, and an orchid-filled greenhouse.

General Information

Location: 4155 Linnean Avenue, NW, Washington, DC
Metro: Van Ness/UDC, Red Line (20-minute walk)

Facebook.com/HillwoodMuseum

Hours: Tuesday through Sunday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Closed Mondays, most holidays, and for several weeks in January.

Café: Merriweather To Go, featuring a quick selection of sandwiches, salads, snacks, and beverages, is available Tuesday through Friday from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. and Saturday through Sunday from 11 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

Ticketing: Advanced reservations are required to minimize physical contact and practice social distancing. No reservations will be taken on site. Reservations are by timed entry and are limited in order to manage safe capacity.
$18, $15 seniors, $10 college students, $5 for visitors age 6 to 18.
No donation is suggested for children under 6.
Adults and seniors receive $3 off the suggested donation for weekday visits and $1 off for weekend visits when reservations are made online.
Members receive free admission to visit the estate during regular operating hours. To join visit http://www.hillwoodmuseum.org/join
For more information visit http://www.hillwoodmuseum.org/hours-and-tickets

###