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University of Dayton

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NEWS RELEASE

ANONYMOUS BENEFACTOR, WORLD-RENOWNED JAZZ ARTISTS ENSURE SUCCESS OF SECOND JAZZ SUMMER CAMP AT UD

DAYTON, Ohio — So impressed with the quality of the University of Dayton’s inaugural summer jazz camp in 2000, an anonymous investor recently stepped forward with a substantial scholarship donation to help ensure that as many young musicians who want to can participate in this year’s camp June 17-23.

Although he can’t disclose the name of the mysterious benefactor, nor the amount of the donation, jazz camp director Willie Morris III said the gift is sizeable enough that he will award a \$200 scholarship to every participant in the Midstates Jazz Summer Camp 2001 residential music program — which includes six nights lodging on campus, three meals a day and a first-class music education experience for junior high and high school students. The scholarships, which cover nearly half the \$450 tuition, will be awarded to those who have already registered for the camp as well.

A joint venture by the University and Miami Valley Jazz, the camp is open to all middle and high school, college and adult music students with intermediate or better music skills. Space is still available but is limited, so interested participants should register as soon as possible, said Morris, assistant professor of music at UD. To register or for more information, call (937) 229-2347 or go to the camp Web site at <http://www.as.udayton.edu/midstatesjazz>.

Morris said he is grateful for the donation from the benefactor he described as an “avid jazz fan and a strong proponent of music education.”

Morris also said last year’s impressive line-up of professional artists will return again this year, adding that the musicians — Carl Allen, drums; Mulgrew Miller, piano; Cecil McBee, bass; Don Braden, saxophone; Terrell Stafford, trumpet; Conrad Herwig, trombone; and Bruce

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Arnold, guitar — agreed at the end of the first summer camp to return every summer as long as they were able.

“A substantial donation from an investor and a lifetime teaching commitment from six of the hottest jazz artists in the world speak volumes more than I can about the success and quality of this camp,” Morris said. “It’s all about whatever it takes to get kids to campus and learning music.”

Students will participate in group and private lessons, jam sessions, master classes, combos, big band rehearsals and special topic lessons. Nightly concerts will feature the all-star faculty and special guests such as the Dayton Jazz Orchestra. Students will also perform in concerts for the public beginning at 1:30 p.m. on the last day of camp.

“What makes this camp so great is that it’s one of the few opportunities these young musicians will have to study with some of the greatest jazz artists in the world,” Morris said. “They’ll eat with them, talk with them, learn from them, perform with them and have one-on-one lessons for six days. That’s an incredible experience.”

-30-

For media interviews, call **Willie Morris III** at (937) 609-2866.