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UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA
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27th Annual Jazz Fest set for April 7-9

Summary:

(April 1, 2005)-Four female artists will headline the 27th Annual Jazz Fest, April 7-9 at the University of Minnesota, Morris. Jane Bunnett on soprano saxophone and flute Sarah Jane Cion at the piano Sherrie Maricle, on drums and trombonist Sarah Morrow will perform along with UMM Jazz Ensembles, under the direction of Dr. James Carlson.

UMM's annual Jazz Fest draws over 700 high school and community jazz musicians to participate in three days of clinics with some of the world's greatest jazz musicians as their teachers. In addition to clinics, guest artists along with UMM's own student jazz musicians will perform at 7:30 p.m. each evening in Edson Auditorium.

Tickets are still available for the Thursday and Saturday evening performances. Contact the Office of Student Activities, at 320-589- 6080, for ticket information.

About the guest artists:

Jane Bunnett, the Toronto soprano saxophonist, flutist and bandleader, has built her career at the crossroads between Cuban music and jazz. Twice nominated for Grammy awards and a fixture of the nominations for Canada's Juno awards, she has turned her bands into showcases for the finest musical talent from Canada, the United States and Cuba.

Sarah Jane Cion was the first-place winner of the internationally acclaimed 17th Annual Great American Jazz Piano Competition held in Jacksonville, Fla., on November 11, 1999. She has performed with such New York City mainstay big bands as the Lew Anderson Big Band at Birdland and The Spirit Of Life Ensemble at Sweet Basil and is currently performing with bestselling author and tenorman James McBride.

From the drum set, Sherrie Maricle leads her big band, The DIVA Jazz Orchestra and her quintet, Five Play. As a composer, performer and educator, Sherrie has received several honors which include: a major feature story in the December 2003 issue of Modern Drummer Magazine a tour grant for DIVA from Arts International the Kennedy Center Alliance Award for Outstanding Achievements in the Arts a grant from Meet the Composer and a Doctoral Fellowship from New York University.

Discovered by the late Ray Charles, Sarah Morrow was the first female instrumentalist to become a member of his orchestra as she toured with the legendary pianist and singer. Her recent release of her first album, "Greenlight," won critical acclaim and launched her career as a prominent soloist, bandleader, and composer/arranger.

All that jazz at UMM:

UMM has four Jazz Ensembles and numerous Jazz Combos. All of the Ensembles tour every year, including biennial trips to New Orleans, La. UMM musicians have performed for many music conventions, including the MMEA

convention in Minneapolis and the NCMENC in Chicago. They have also performed at a variety of functions including festivals, clinics, performing arts series, and various other private events. In July 1991, the UMM Jazz Ensemble was one of the 25 big bands from around the world to perform at the 25th annual Montreux Jazz Festival in Montreux, Switzerland. During Memorial Day Weekend 1992, they performed at Carnegie Hall with The Count Basie Orchestra, and in 1994 they performed in The North Sea Jazz Festival at The Hague, Netherlands. In 1997, the ensembles made return appearances at both Montreux and North Sea Jazz Festivals. They performed at both the Montreux and Vienne, France Jazz Festivals in 2000.

Jazz Fest is co-hosted by the UMM Jazz Ensembles and Campus Activities Council Performing Arts Committee.

Through personal and academic discovery, the University of Minnesota, Morris provides opportunities for students to grow intellectually, engage in community, experience environmental stewardship and celebrate diversity. A renewable and sustainable educational experience, Morris prepares graduates for careers, for advanced degrees, for lifelong learning, for work world flexibility in the future, and for global citizenship. Learn more about Morris at morris.umn.edu or call 888-866-3382.