

Adrienne Arsht Center

FOR THE PERFORMING ARTS OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

MEDIA CONTACTS:

Eva Bordeaux Silverstein
(786) 468-2323

esilverstein@arshtcenter.org

Daisy Cabrera
(786) 468-2228

dcabrera@arshtcenter.org



IN CELEBRATION OF BLACK HISTORY MONTH
THE ADRIENNE ARSHT CENTER FOR THE PERFORMING ARTS
OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY AND LARRY ROSEN
SPOTLIGHT TWO OF THE GREATEST LIVING JAZZ STARS
– AL JARREAU AND RAMSEY LEWIS –
ON A PROGRAM TO PAY TRIBUTE TO AMERICA'S SOUL MUSIC

Friday, February 26, 2010 at 8 p.m.

Tickets \$25 to \$125

John S. and James L. Knight Concert Hall

MIAMI, FL January 27, 2010 – In honor of Black History Month, the Adrienne Arsht Center for the Performing Arts of Miami-Dade County and acclaimed producer Larry Rosen will present two multi-Grammy Award-winning artists -- the incomparable jazz vocalist **Al Jarreau** and NEA Jazz Master **Ramsey Lewis** -- in a concert entitled **JAZZ ROOTS: A Larry Rosen Jazz Series: JAZZ AND SOUL** on Friday, February 26, 2010 at 8 p.m. in the John S. and James L. Knight Concert Hall. The program will feature current selections and hit tunes from the talents of these two illustrious musicians who took jazz, merged it with soul, and created their own signature sounds.

“As we celebrate Black History Month in February, this special concert will bring two world-renowned, multiple Grammy Award-winners to the stage of the Knight

Concert Hall. Al Jarreau and Ramsey Lewis represent the very best of this uniquely American musical expression, born out of the African Diaspora, and so beloved here in the South Florida community -- Jazz," said M. John Richard, President and CEO of the Adrienne Arsht Center. "It is with great pride and enthusiasm that we present our tenth Jazz Roots performance, and continue our season-long celebration of events that showcase the music rooted in African-American traditions."

"As part of our **JAZZ ROOTS** series we're honored to bring Al Jarreau, one of the most unique vocal artists of our time, to the Adrienne Arsht Center," said producer Larry Rosen. "Al has a stylistic range that goes from a pop song to a classic jazz standard, plus he has the ability to use his voice in a way that creates an incredible rhythmic percussive groove, elevating any audience into a frenzy." Rosen continued, "As part of our **JAZZ and SOUL** concert, we are also presenting NEA Jazz Master Ramsey Lewis, who brings the church, the blues, R&B, and straight ahead jazz to audiences, with a sense of class and sophistication. He is the complete performer and an American classic!"

Al Jarreau's unique vocal style is one of the world's most precious musical treasures. His innovative musical expressions have made him one of the most exciting and critically-acclaimed performers of our time with six Grammy Awards, scores of international music awards and popular accolades worldwide. Considered by many to be the greatest living jazz singer, **Al Jarreau** is an artist of stunning range. He has spent decades bending genres with his lithe voice, earning him the rare distinction of being the only artist to have won Grammy Awards in three different categories: pop, jazz, and R&B. His most recent recording, *Al Jarreau – The Very Best of: An Excellent Adventure*, was released by Rhino Records in 2009.

Al Jarreau has toured and performed with countless musicians, including Miles Davis, David Sanborn, and George Benson. In the 1980s, he became a weekly guest in America's living rooms singing the Grammy-nominated theme song for the hit television series *Moonlighting*. An incredibly versatile artist, in 1996, he also performed the role of Teen Angel in the Broadway hit musical, *Grease!* In 2001, he was awarded a star on the "Hollywood Walk of Fame," solidifying his status as one of the pre-eminent singers of his generation.

In addition to his Arsht Center performance as part of the **JAZZ ROOTS** series, highlights of **Mr. Jarreau's** 2010 schedule include performances at the Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts in Washington D.C., the Walt Disney Concert Hall in Los Angeles, and *Weekend of Jazz* in Broadmoor, Colorado.

Composer, pianist, and jazz legend **Ramsey Lewis** is affectionately known as "the great performer," a title reflecting his performance style and musical selections which display his early gospel playing and classical training, along with his love of jazz and other musical forms. Although primarily considered a jazz

artist, he is known for mixing a variety of genres, including soul, blues, pop, and classical into his repertoire.

Ramsey Lewis's recording history – more than 80 albums in his six-decade career – attests to his enduring popularity. He first captivated fans with his debut album, *Ramsey Lewis and the Gentlemen of Swing*, by the Ramsey Lewis Trio in 1956. By 1965, he was one of the nation's most successful jazz pianists, topping the charts with his singles, "The In Crowd," "Hang on Sloopy," and "Wade in the Water."

Mr. Lewis's most recent release, *Songs from the Heart: Ramsey Plays Ramsey*, was released by Concord Records in 2009. In addition to recording albums and performing live, **Mr. Lewis** continues to host the syndicated *Legends of Jazz with Ramsey Lewis* radio program that airs in more than 75 cities throughout the U.S., as well as perform internationally with his trio, Larry Gray on bass and Leon Joyce on drums. **Mr. Lewis** has three Grammy Awards and seven gold records to his credit and, in January 2007, he received the prestigious National Endowment for the Arts Jazz Masters Award.

JAZZ ROOTS also features an in-depth educational partnership with Miami-Dade County Public Schools which will bring more than 900 music students to the Center for a unique behind-the-scenes experience, including a pre-concert sound check and a Q&A session with featured artists followed by a workshop with a local jazz expert that will highlight the music, the artistic process and the practical skills needed for a career in the arts. In addition, the Center has developed a curriculum which will be distributed to 800 music, English and social studies teachers throughout the MDCPS school system, potentially serving 24,000 children.

The **JAZZ ROOTS** series is presented in partnership with Bank of America.

WPBT Channel 2, WDNA 88.9 FM Serious Jazz, WLRN 91.3 FM, Capsule Media and Daniel Azoulay Gallery have generously agreed to be media sponsors of **JAZZ ROOTS**.

TICKETS:

Tickets for **JAZZ ROOTS: JAZZ AND SOUL** range from \$25 to \$125 and can be purchased through the Adrienne Arsht Center box office at 305.949.6722 or online at www.arshtcenter.org.

CALENDAR LISTING

Adrienne Arsht Center and Larry Rosen present

JAZZ ROOTS: JAZZ AND SOUL

Featuring Al Jarreau and Ramsey Lewis

Celebrate Black History Month with two renowned stars and the music born out of the African-American experience. Al Jarreau, six-time Grammy Award winner, possesses a voice that is recognized as one of the world's most precious treasures. One of the most honored artists in the history of jazz, NEA Jazz Master Ramsey Lewis is often referred to as "the great performer."

February 26, 2010 at 8 p.m.
Tickets: \$25 - \$125
Knight Concert Hall
Adrienne Arsht Center
1300 Biscayne Boulevard, Miami, FL 33132

For tickets, visit www.arshtcenter.org or call 305.949.6722

Visit www.arshtcenter.org for up-to-date information for details and schedules. See highlights and video for the JAZZ ROOTS series at www.jazzroots.net.

JAZZ ROOTS series subscriptions, which include tickets to all six performances, are also available with seating priority given to renewed subscriptions and Adrienne Arsht Center members.

Support for the Adrienne Arsht Center for the Performing Arts of Miami-Dade County's Jazz Roots education program is generously provided by the Arison Arts Foundation; with the additional support of the Miami-Dade County Department of Cultural Affairs and the Cultural Affairs Council, the Miami-Dade County Mayor, and the Board of County Commissioners. The Jazz Roots education program is also funded in part by the Children's Trust. The Trust is a dedicated source of revenue established by voter referendum to improve the lives of children and families in Miami-Dade County.

Adrienne Arsht Center for the Performing Arts of Miami-Dade County is made possible by the public support of the Miami-Dade County Mayor and the Board of County Commissioners, Miami-Dade County Department of Cultural Affairs and the Cultural Affairs Council, and Miami-Dade County Tourist Development Council. Education and Outreach is funded in part by The Children's Trust. The Adrienne Arsht Center also receives generous support from private contributions to the Adrienne Arsht Center Foundation, Inc. through its Visionary Society membership program and its Encore Circle major gifts program; American Express Company; Arison Arts Foundation; Bank of America Charitable Foundation; City of Miami Omni Community Redevelopment Agency; Dade Community Foundation; Funding Arts Network; John S. and James L. Knight Foundation; Southern Arts Federation, The Cowles Charitable Trust; The Wachovia Wells Fargo Foundation; the National Endowment for the Arts; and the State of Florida, Department of State, Division of Cultural Affairs and the Florida Arts Council.

Editor's Note:

Related high-resolution photos are available at www.arshtcenter.org/press and www.mediafire.com/arshtcenterphotos.

###

About the Adrienne Arsht Center for Performing Arts of Miami-Dade County

The Adrienne Arsht Center for the Performing Arts of Miami-Dade County is one of the world's leading performing arts organizations and venues. Made possible by Miami-Dade County's largest ever public/private-sector partnership, the Center plays host to three resident companies (Florida Grand Opera, Miami City Ballet and New World Symphony, America's Orchestral Academy) in addition to numerous South Florida arts organizations that perform in its theaters regularly. Since opening in 2006, the Center has emerged as a leader in offering and presenting world-class programming that mirrors South Florida's diversity, as a catalyst for development in Miami, and as a host of impactful community and educational programs.

Designed by world-renowned architect Cesar Pelli of Pelli Clarke Pelli Architects, the venue is comprised of the 2,400-seat Sanford and Dolores Ziff Ballet Opera House, the 2,200-seat John S.

and James L. Knight Concert Hall, the black box Carnival Studio Theater, a restored Carnival Art Deco Tower, the Peacock Foundation, Inc. Studio, the Peacock Foundation, Inc. Education Center, and the outdoor Parker and Vann Thomson Plaza for the Arts. Events impresario and restaurateur Barton G. Weiss brought his signature style to the Center in 2009 with PRELUDE BY BARTON G, a full-service upscale restaurant open five days a week.

Visit www.arshtcenter.org for more information.

About Larry Rosen

Larry Rosen, producer and creator of the JAZZ ROOTS series at the Adrienne Arsht Center is an entrepreneur, visionary, musician, and producer. Mr. Rosen is chairman of Larry Rosen Productions, Inc.; co-founder and co-chairman of LRSmedia, LLC; co-founder, past chairman and CEO of N2K, Inc. (NASDAQ); and co-founder, past president and CEO of GRP Records, Inc. Mr. Rosen is the creator and producer of the PBS TV series LEGENDS OF JAZZ, and is the creator and producer of the eight-part TV mini-series titled "RECORDING: The History of Recorded Music." Mr. Rosen is the co-founder and past CEO of GRP Records Inc. where he produced or executive-produced over 350 albums. GRP is one of the industry's top jazz record labels, whose all-star roster of artists and recordings were nominated for over eight GRAMMY awards. Mr. Rosen co-founded N2K, Inc. which was the first major online company to sell music digitally, earning him Ernst & Young's prestigious "Entrepreneur of the Year" award in New Media & Entertainment.