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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Detroit Jazz Festival Foundation Awarded \$40,000 by the National Endowment for the Arts

Detroit, July 13, 2017 - The Detroit Jazz Festival Foundation was recently awarded an Art Works grant totaling \$40,000 from the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) to support the commission and world premiere of *Legends and Legacy: An Ode to Michael Brecker*. Gil Goldstein, a five-time Grammy Award-winning arranger, producer and keyboardist, will partner with the Foundation to create and present this original piece inspired by the legendary composer and saxophonist Michael Brecker.

The multi-movement and orchestral piece will incorporate Goldstein's reflections on Brecker's musical achievements as a composer and saxophonist through the lens of Goldstein's own unique arranging and orchestrational sound. He will compose this piece for the Detroit Jazz Festival Chamber Orchestra, featuring three legendary saxophonists, including Joe Lovano, Donny McCaslin and Rick Margitza; and a rhythm section of John Patitucci on bass, Brian Blade on drums, and Goldstein on piano and accordion. The premiere, conducted by Goldstein, will take place at the 38th Annual Detroit Jazz Festival, the world's largest free jazz festival, on Sunday, Sept. 3.

"We are thankful to have the NEA's support and the musical contributions of Gil Goldstein—who produced and arranged Brecker's last two recordings—to foster the development of this new work that will honor the 10th anniversary of Brecker's passing," said Chris Collins, president and artistic director of the Detroit Jazz Festival Foundation. "This project not only helps us celebrate the legacy of Brecker, but it also places a major emphasis on education and culture, which are critical to the Detroit Jazz Festival Foundation's mission to nurture the development of jazz music."

Through the allocated NEA grant funds, the Foundation also will provide inspiring and educational workshop opportunities to underserved students across Detroit. Educational workshops will be facilitated by Goldstein and other professional musicians, and explore music history, sound origin and the pillars of the jazz genre.

"The arts reflect the vision, energy, and talent of America's artists and arts organizations," said NEA Chairman Jane Chu. "The National Endowment for the Arts is proud to support organizations, such as the Detroit Jazz Festival Foundation, in serving their communities by providing excellent and accessible arts experiences."

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The Foundation is one of 1,029 Art Works grant recipients. In total, the NEA has awarded \$24.1 million in Art Works grants, which fund the creation of art programs that meet the highest standards of excellence, public engagement, lifelong learning and strengthening of communities through the arts.

For jazz enthusiasts not in town Labor Day weekend, the Detroit Jazz Festival will be livestreaming Legends and Legacy: An Ode to Michael Brecker via its Detroit Jazz Fest LIVE! app. The app is available for download at live.detroitjazzfest.com or through the Google Play Store. For \$10, festival-goers and individuals unable to attend the Festival can livestream performances, as well as access Festival maps and other details for free.

About the National Endowment for the Arts

Established by Congress in 1965, the NEA is the independent federal agency whose funding and support gives Americans the opportunity to participate in the arts, exercise their imaginations, and develop their creative capacities. Through partnerships with state arts agencies, local leaders, other federal agencies, and the philanthropic sector, the NEA supports arts learning, affirms and celebrates America's rich and diverse cultural heritage, and extends its work to promote equal access to the arts in every community across America. For more information, visit www.arts.gov.

About the Detroit Jazz Festival Foundation

The Detroit Jazz Festival Foundation is an independent, non-profit organization that presents jazz and educational workshops throughout the year. The Foundation supports the Detroit Jazz Festival, which is the largest free jazz festival in the world and a major tourist attraction for the City of Detroit, with 26 percent of its audience coming from out of state.

The Foundation receives grant funding from the Kresge Foundation, Michigan Council for Arts and Cultural Affairs, Erb Family Foundation, Arts Midwest and the National Endowment for the Arts. Hundreds of individuals also contribute to the Festival through membership and donations.

Major corporate partners include Quicken Loans, JPMorgan Chase & Co., DTE Energy Foundation, Mack Avenue Records, Carhartt, Inc., Ford Motor Company, Dirty Dog Jazz Cafe, Greektown Casino-Hotel and Comcast Cable. Additional partners include Absopure, AMTECH International, Andiamo, Bedrock, Bingham Legal Group, Central Michigan University, Cliff Bell's, Detroit Marriott at the Renaissance Center, Detroit Saxophone Center, Detroit 300 Conservancy, Digital Planet, MGM Grand Detroit, Murals in the Market, Oakland University, Pepsi, Plante Moran, St. John Providence, Wayne State University, Whole Foods Market and Woodward Gallery. Media partners include Fox 2, WJR, WEMU-FM, *DownBeat*, *JAZZIZ*, *JazzTimes*, *Metro Times*, WRCJ and Detroit Public Television. The Greening of the Festival is supported by a generous grant from the DTE Energy Foundation. For more information, visit www.detroitjazzfest.com.

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