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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**Detroit Jazz Festival Foundation Announces Special 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Reunion of Beloved Hometown Artists, *Straight Ahead***  
*Performances to take place this month at the Dirty Dog Jazz Cafe and at 2018 Festival*

**Detroit, Mich., Feb. 6, 2018** – The Detroit Jazz Festival Foundation is kicking off its 2018 Foundation programming with an exciting reunion of four beloved native Detroiters that founded the original, all-female group, Straight Ahead. The Straight Ahead 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Reunion featuring founding members Regina Carter, Marion Hayden, Alina Morr and Gayelynn McKinney, will take place at the Dirty Dog Jazz Cafe, Feb. 21-22. Guitarist, composer and singer-songwriter, Elden Kelly, will join the performances. Fans from out of town or that are unavailable to attend the upcoming performances will get a second chance to hear the inspiring group at the 39<sup>th</sup> Annual Detroit Jazz Festival during Labor Day weekend. This unique collaboration can only be seen in Detroit, extending the excitement from the 2017 Festival that featured Regina Carter: Simply Ella, and further showcasing the depth of talent emerging from the Motor City.

“The Detroit Jazz Festival Foundation is committed to celebrating Detroit’s jazz legacy year-round and showcasing the talented artists engrained in Detroit, who have made a profound impact on our beloved genre,” said Chris Collins, president and artistic director of the Detroit Jazz Festival Foundation. “This group of original Straight Ahead women is a phenomenal representation of Detroit’s remarkable jazz roots and one we’re exceptionally excited to bring together for multiple performances this year.”

Sets at the Dirty Dog Jazz Cafe will take place at 6:30 and 9 p.m. on Wednesday, Feb. 21 and Thursday, Feb. 22. Tickets cost \$45 and are open to the general public starting Saturday, Feb. 10. Doors will open 30 minutes prior to each performance.

In addition to listening to some of the most admired women in jazz, attendees of the 9 p.m., Feb. 22 performance will hear the announcement of the 2018 Detroit Jazz Festival Artist-in-Residence. Jazz enthusiasts unable to attend the Feb. 22 performance can still tune into the Artist-in-Residence announcement via Detroit Jazz Fest LIVE! Cost to register is \$10, which includes all livestreaming feeds from the 2018 Festival and additional programming leading up to the signature event, including the Feb. 22 announcement. To register for the livestream service visit [live.detroitjazzfest.org](http://live.detroitjazzfest.org).

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For more information on the February events and to reserve your seat, please contact the Dirty Dog Jazz Cafe at (313) 882-5299.

### **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 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, Ford Motor Company, Carhartt, Inc., Mack Avenue Records, Dirty Dog Jazz Cafe, Bedrock and Comcast Cable. Additional partners include Absopure, AMTECH International, Andiamo, Bingham Legal Group, Central Michigan University, Cliff Bell's, Detroit Marriott at the Renaissance Center, Detroit Saxophone Center, Detroit 300 Conservancy, Digital Planet, George Johnson & Company, Greektown Casino-Hotel, Lyft, Metro Cars, MGM Grand Detroit, Oakland University, Pepsi, Plante Moran, Rocket Fiber, St. John Providence, Wayne State University, Whole Foods Market and Woodward Gallery. Media partners include Fox 2, WJR, WEMU-FM, *DownBeat*, *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.org](http://www.detroitjazzfest.org).

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