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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**Detroit Jazz Festival Proudly Announces Renowned Pianist-Composer Chick Corea as
2018 Artist-in-Residence**

Detroit, Mich., Feb. 23, 2018 – The Detroit Jazz Festival Foundation is thrilled to announce it has once again named a living legend in jazz music as its Artist-in-Residence. This year, renowned pianist and composer, Chick Corea, will carry the torch as the 2018 Detroit Jazz Festival Artist-in-Residence, by leading multiple performances during Labor Day weekend and supporting the Foundation’s multi-faceted year-round educational programming. Bringing impressive talent like Corea to the Festival as a major participant builds upon the strong foundation the Festival has established over its 39 years and its ability to deliver the world’s largest free jazz festival with world-class talent.

“Our mission is to bring dynamic artists with exceptional talent and creatively infused performances to Detroit. Chick Corea is a flawless fit as the ambassador of our Festival and will set a uniquely high standard for the vastly diverse, purely jazz performances leading up to and during Labor Day weekend,” said Chris Collins, president and artistic director of the Detroit Jazz Festival Foundation.

For years, Corea’s depth of creativity and eclectic background has wowed jazz enthusiasts across the globe. His strong music portfolio covers a wide range of stylings from straight ahead to avant-garde, chamber music, symphony, bebop to fusion, and much more. In addition to bridging many jazz undertones, Corea is a 22-time Grammy winner, National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) Jazz Master and DownBeat Hall of Famer. With a total of 63 nominations, Corea is the fourth most nominated artist in Grammy history. Beyond receiving significant accolades, Corea has proved himself a true leader in jazz, leading strong, identifiable ensembles throughout his career.

“To say this artist is legendary would be an understatement,” continued Collins. “His colorful and extensive experience in countless styles of the genre will add even more variation to this year’s Festival, while maintaining the true jazz tone that exudes from our Festival.”

During Festival weekend, Corea will be performing three wide-ranging sets, including appearances with his Akoustic Band, Elektric Band and an orchestral presentation that features his sextet.

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“Having performed at the Detroit Jazz Festival in the past, I know and admire the phenomenal collection of talent the Festival brings to Detroit,” said Corea. “I am excited to take on a larger role during and in the months leading up to Festival as the Artist-in-Residence and showcase the depth of the genre through my broad range of performances and educational outreach.”

Corea learned to play the drums at 8 years old and the piano at age 4. Some of Corea’s groundbreaking albums over the past five decades include “Now He Sings, Now He Sobs”; “Paris-Concert”; “Light as a Feather” and many more.

Jazz enthusiasts who can’t make it to the free Festival weekend, which takes place Aug. 31 – Sept. 3, don’t have to miss a thing. Detroit Jazz Fest LIVE! – the Festival’s livestreaming service – allows fans to watch performances from all four stages, all four days, on any mobile device, tablet or desktop. Learn more about the Festival and the livestreaming service at www.detroitjazzfest.org.

Some of the Festival’s most recent Artists-in-Residences include Wayne Shorter, Ron Carter and Pat Metheny.

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 more than 25 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.

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