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## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### National Jazz Artists Help J.C. Heard JazzWeek@Wayne Program Celebrate 10 Years

**Detroit, Mich., July 22, 2016** – The J.C. Heard JazzWeek@Wayne program is celebrating its 10<sup>th</sup> year and three renowned national artists will be on hand to help foster the musical growth of local high school students. Created through a unique partnership between the Detroit Jazz Festival Foundation and Wayne State University (WSU), J.C. Heard JazzWeek@Wayne is a week-long intensive jazz workshop that has assisted hundreds of students in sharpening their musical skills, gaining the confidence to perform and potentially pursuing careers in jazz.

New to this year's JazzWeek@Wayne are the three nationally renowned jazz artists who will be in town for the week-long camp serving as educators in residence and preparing JazzWeek@Wayne students for unique performance opportunities at the Detroit Jazz Festival. This year's guest artists include:

- **Shannon Powell**, a drummer from New Orleans, who has played with Branford and Wynton Marsalis, Nicholas Payton, and Diana Krall. He will be teaching the New Orleans Second Line repertoire, tradition and style to JazzWeek Students.
- **Stephanie Fisher**, Gregoire Maret's choir director from New York City. Fisher will be teaching student vocalists solo/ensemble styles and preparing select students to join her on Maret's set at this year's Detroit Jazz Festival.
- And **Theo Croker**, a rising trumpeter in jazz whose debut album on Dee Dee Bridgewater's DDB Records includes performances from Bridgewater, Roy Hargrove and Karriem Riggins. Croker also won the 2013 Detroit Jazz Festival trumpet competition.

"The students in this program are extremely talented and have the opportunity for unlimited growth in the jazz world," said Chris Collins, artistic director and president of the Detroit Jazz Festival Foundation. "They are selected based on ability and pay nothing to attend. It's about nurturing their musical abilities and helping to keep the legacy of jazz alive. Artistry, excellence, communication and education are tenets of our organization. We are proud to see where the music has taken our alums over the last decade."

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As in years past, to gain admittance into the 2016 program, 40 students auditioned and were each awarded a scholarship to attend, making the program free of charge. The program runs July 25-29, 2016, and will be taught by a combination of WSU faculty and professional musicians with a variety of experience in the jazz music genre.

“We’re thrilled to once again have talented jazz musicians join us to coach, mentor and challenge the students to help them perfect their musical skills and confidence performing,” said Chuck Newsome, education coordinator of the Detroit Jazz Festival Foundation. “Bringing in guest artists to help the students critique their strengths and weaknesses, and provide educational feedback, is really an invaluable aspect of our program.”

Students will be able to display their hard work and talent by playing two special performances, including:

- **J.C. Heard JazzWeek@Wayne Performance with Special Guests & Jam Session**  
*6:30 p.m. – 10:30 p.m. on Wednesday, July 27 at Cliff Bell’s*  
Student musicians will get a chance to show off their talents and play alongside the Detroit Jazz Festival All-Stars and Croker. Educators in residence, Powell and Fisher, also will be in attendance.
- **J.C. Heard JazzWeek@Wayne Student Showcase**  
*11:45 a.m. – 2 p.m. on Friday, July 29 at Campus Martius*  
In the heart of Detroit, students will perform compositions that they learned at camp.
- During the Detroit Jazz Festival, the world’s largest free jazz festival, JazzWeek@Wayne students also will perform as part of the J.C. Heard All-Star Youth Ensemble, and as part of *Gregoire Maret and the Inner Voice Ensemble* and premiere their second line skills in the new “*Dr. Valade’s Brass Band*”

This program is a collaborative effort and is possible due to support from WSU, the J.C. Heard family and Carolyn P. Wanzo. Additionally, this activity is supported in part by an award from the Michigan Council for Arts and Cultural Affairs.

#### **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 23 percent of its audience coming from out of state.

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The Foundation receives grant funding from the Kresge Foundation, National Endowment for the Arts, Michigan Council for Arts and Cultural Affairs, Erb Family Foundation, Arts Midwest Touring Fund, Carolyn P. Wanzo and the Detroit Public Schools Foundation. Hundreds of individual donors also contribute to the Festival through membership and donations. Major corporate partners include JPMorgan Chase & Co., Quicken Loans, DTE Energy Foundation, Carhartt, Ford Motor Company, Greektown Casino-Hotel, Absopure, Mack Avenue Records and Comcast. Additional partners include AMTECH International, Central Michigan University, Cliff Bell's, Detroit Marriott at the Renaissance Center, Detroit 300 Conservancy, Dirty Dog Jazz Cafe, Fathead, Great Lakes Beverage, Merrill Lynch, MGM Grand Detroit, Opportunity Detroit, Pepsi, Plante Moran, PNC Bank, St. John Providence, Wayne State University, Whole Foods Market and Woodward Gallery. Media partners include Fox 2, WJR, WDET-FM, WEMU-FM, WRCJ-FM, DownBeat, JazzTimes and MetroTimes. The Greening of the Detroit Jazz Festival is supported by a generous grant from the DTE Energy Foundation. For more information, visit [www.detroitjazzfest.com](http://www.detroitjazzfest.com).

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