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To: Listings/Critics/Features

From: JAZZ PROMO SERVICES

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

Harlem Speaks Swings into the Summer!

Jean Bach (July 7th)
Bill Saxton (July 28th)
Seleno Clarke (August 11th)
Herb Boyd (August 25th)

New York, NY (June 24, 2005) The *Harlem Speaks* series is co-produced by the Jazz Museum in Harlem's Executive Director, Loren Schoenberg, and Greg Thomas Associates. Each event takes place at the offices of the Jazz Museum in Harlem, located at 104 East 126th Street, between Park and Lexington Avenues, from 6:30pm-8:00pm, twice a month on Thursdays.

The Jazz Museum in Harlem's series honoring the great and ongoing legacy of Harlem jazz, *Harlem Speaks*, continues on July 7th with Academy Award-nominated filmmaker Jean Bach. Her 1995 documentary, *A Great Day in Harlem*, commemorated the historic, iconic 1958 *Esquire* magazine photo taken by first-time photographer Art Kane in front of a Harlem brownstone on 126th street between Park and Madison Avenues. Early in her career, Ms. Bach was a society-page journalist in Chicago. Her friendship with Duke Ellington during the mid-30s led to a weekly record column in a major Chicago newspaper. Subsequent acquaintances with leading jazz players of the 40s, 50s and 60s sparked her affection for the famous group photo on which her film *A Great Day in Harlem* was based. ³I actually knew most of the stars in that picture² she explains. Since the Oscar nomination of that motion picture, dozens of copycat photos have sprung up all around the globe. So we now have *A Great Day in Hollywood*, *A Great Day in New South Wales, Australia*, *A Great Day in Chicago*, and a brand new *Great Day in Harlem* featuring a group of Black businessmen, with Bill Clinton in the middle. Throughout the

span of her very long life, Jean Bach has been fascinated by the music of jazz, and its purveyors.

One of Harlem's most beloved jazz musicians, multi-reed man Bill Saxton, is the museum's special guest on July 28th. A Harlem native, Saxton's quartet was a regular at St. Nick's Pub for over a decade, yet has been featured around the world, touring Europe and Africa and across the United States since the 1980s. While in his 20s, he studied woodwinds, arranging and composition at the New England Conservatory, where he graduated with a Bachelor of Arts degree in 1973. He's played and recorded with a virtual who's who of jazz, including jazz lights such as: Clark Terry, Clifford Jordan, Charlie Persip, Frank Foster, Tito Puente, Jimmy Ponder, and Bobby Watson. In addition to his superb work as a leader and sideman, Saxton is a top-notch jazz educator; he is an adjunct faculty member of the New School of Social Research, and instructs a clarinet ensemble and teaches music theory to youth on behalf of a music program sponsored by the NYC Housing Authority.

Seleno Clarke, another Harlem jazz treasure, is a living master of the Hammond "B3" organ. On **August 11th** he will discuss his 40+ years in the music business. In the 60s he played saxophone in all the clubs in the Harlem loop (including the Apollo) and downtown. Clarke and Kenny Dorham were two of the last artists to play the famous Harlem club Minton's Playhouse. Legends like the late Grant Green and stars like George Benson, who produced Clarke's quintet CD, *Diversity*, have appeared frequently as special guests with his bands. The long list of other players who have played with him also includes Melvin Sparks, Jimmy Ponder, Mark Whitfield and Russell Malone. Clarke hosts an international jam session **every Sunday evening** from 7:00pm - 12:00am at Harlem's American Legion Hall, and plays on Tuesdays from 7pm-11pm at Perk's Jazz and Supper Club.

Harlem Speaks concludes its summer set of talks on **August 25th** with Harlem resident Herb Boyd, one of the most tireless writers in all of New York. In addition to serving as National Editor of the online publication *The Black World Today*, Boyd's byline can be seen on a weekly basis in the *Amsterdam News*. But in any given month, you can find his jazz reviews in *Downbeat*, *Jazz Times*, and other music publications. Boyd's co-editorship of the anthology *Brotherman: The Odyssey of Black Men in America* was awarded an American Book Award for nonfiction; he is also editor of *The Harlem Reader*, and author of a biography of Sugar Ray Robinson, *Sugar in Harlem*, as well as *We Shall Overcome*, a gripping account of the civil rights movement.

The spring set closed on **June 16th** with **William C. Rhoden**, sports writer and columnist with the *New York Times* for 23 years. Mr. Rhoden discussed his background as an associate editor of *Ebony* magazine from 1974 to 1978, his three years with *The Baltimore Sun* as a columnist and jazz critic, and his experience as the road manager for an international tour of the Billy Harper Quartet. While on tour in Prague, Rhoden sent a postcard to the Abe Rosenthal of the *New York Times*; upon his return, he found a response from the legendary newspaperman, and thereafter, began his long tenure with the nation's top newspaper. In addition, he engaged the Jazz Museum in Harlem's co-

director Christian McBride in a wide-ranging talk about his work as the unofficial "Minister of Jazz" for the Church of the Intercession in Harlem, his ideas for jazz education for youth and professional athletes, along with his provocative views on race, society and culture.

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As always, the series is *free* to the public. Please call for reservations: 212 348-8300.