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For Immediate Release

**UNIFIED JAZZ ENSEMBLE AWARDED NATIONAL 2010 CHAMBER MUSIC
AMERICA RESIDENCY PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM GRANT**

The Unified Jazz Ensemble (UJE) is one of only eight music ensembles nationwide to receive a 2010 grant award from Chamber Music America's (CMA) Residency Partnership Program, funded through the generosity of the Doris Duke Charitable Foundation. The Residency Partnership Program supports projects in which jazz, classical/contemporary, or world ensemble music is presented outside traditional performance venues and in community settings, with the goal of increasing audience appreciation and awareness of small ensemble music.

The UJE, in partnership with Class Acts Arts, will be performing and in residence in schools and other community settings in the Maryland and Washington, D.C. area throughout the 2010-11 school year. The goals of the project are to bring a greater appreciation of jazz to young and adult listeners, and to inspire students to take up the study and practice of jazz instruments and music.

"For jazz musicians engaged in community-based performances, efforts to consistently serve audiences require a critical balance of private, public, and philanthropic support. This grant award provides both direct support for the UJE partnership with Class Acts Arts and immeasurable validation of the artistic and community engagement work of the Unified Jazz Ensemble," said UJE leader Mike Noonan.

For nearly 20 years, the UJE has brought live jazz to communities underserved in the arts through performances and workshops. The group was established in 1992 to

undertake multi-year residencies in rural areas of Arkansas and Iowa, supported by the National Endowment for the Arts and Chamber Music America.

“Our group experienced significant artistic and professional growth during those residency years some 20 years ago. We credit this early support with cementing the ensemble work of the group, providing valuable time to develop our compositions and refine our approach to community engagement,” said Noonan. “It is a great honor to once again earn support for our residency efforts and we are extremely proud to receive this grant from Chamber Music America and the Doris Duke Charitable Foundation.”

For more information about the Chamber Music America Residency Partnership Programs, visit: <http://www.chamber-music.org/programs/grant.html>.

Unified Jazz Ensemble

The Unified Jazz Ensemble (UJE), based in Annapolis, Maryland, is dedicated to bringing the best of jazz to audiences of all ages. The group was founded in 1992, and has performed across the United States and internationally, engaging listeners in innovative performances of jazz standards and original compositions. The UJE’s eighth recording, *Cradle Song*, was released in July 2010 and features all original compositions. Ensemble members are: Mike Noonan, John Pineda, Dominic Smith, and Tim Stanley. Learn more at www.unifiedjazz.com.

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Chamber *Music* America

2010-11 residencies by the Unified Jazz Ensemble organized in partnership with Class Acts Arts have been made possible with support from Chamber Music America’s Residency Program, funded through the generosity of the Doris Duke Charitable Foundation.