



Media only: Mandy Young (202) 633-8529

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Media Web site: <http://americanart.si.edu/pr>

Media Advisory

WHAT: JAM Fest, jazz performances in conjunction with Jazz Appreciation Month

WHEN: April 15 – 17
5 – 8 p.m.

WHERE: Smithsonian American Art Museum
Eighth and F streets N.W.

The Smithsonian American Art Museum will present JAM Fest April 15 through 17 from 5 to 8 p.m. each night. JAM Fest is part of Jazz Appreciation Month, an annual Smithsonian initiative. The concert format will be similar to American Art's monthly jazz event, Take Five!, which normally occurs every third Thursday in the museum's Kogod Courtyard. The schedule for JAM Fest is as follows:

- **Wednesday, April 15—Blues Alley Youth Orchestra**, the Washington D.C., area's premiere jazz ambassadors who range in age from 11 to 17, will perform varied musical selections by composers such as Duke Ellington, Dizzy Gillespie, Charlie Parker, Miles Davis, John Coltrane, Chick Corea, Herbie Hancock and others.
- **Thursday, April 16—Bemcha**, a high-energy Latin jazz ensemble, fuses the musical styles of salsa, cha-cha, bossa, samba, mambo, rumba, tango and bolero.
- **Friday, April 17—Thad Wilson Jazz Orchestra**, a 12-piece big band that is known for blending jazz classics with progressive elements such as blues, funk, Gospel and a touch of hip-hop.

JAM Fest is free and open to the public and will take place in the museum's Kogod Courtyard. Seating is available on a first-come, first-served basis, and food and drink may be purchased in the Courtyard Café during the performances. More information on these and other museum programs is available at <http://americanart.si.edu/calendar>. For specific questions about programs, the public may call (202) 633-8490 or e-mail americanartprograms@si.edu.

The Smithsonian American Art Museum is located at Eighth and F streets N.W., above the Gallery Place/Chinatown Metrorail station. Hours are 11:30 a.m. to 7 p.m. daily, except Dec. 25. Admission is free. Smithsonian information: (202) 633-1000 or TTY (202) 633-5285. Museum information (recorded): (202) 633-7970. Web site: americanart.si.edu.

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