

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Contact: Troy Burton
Executive Director
Office: 410-225-3130
Fax: 410-225-3139 Fax
Email: eubieblake@rcn.com

The Eubie Blake National Jazz Institute and Cultural Center Unveils New Renovation Project Eubie Live!

BALTIMORE, MD – The Eubie Blake National Jazz Institute and Cultural Center (EBNJICC) unveils Eubie Live!, a new state-of-the-art performance venue in Baltimore offering a small, yet intimate setting for music, dance and theater. With a carefully planned strategy that included a very lofty vision and much anticipation for the most optimal outcome, the Eubie Blake Center continues to expand in its programmatic offerings. The Board of Directors the EBNJICC will celebrate the grand opening of Eubie Live! on Friday, June 5, 2009 at 8:00 PM at 847 North Howard Street, donation \$25. The evening will feature music and theatrical performances, food, open bar, and the dedication of the venue. Proceeds from this event will go the center's Gifted and Talented Summer Center for youth scholarships.

Among the artists scheduled to perform are internationally acclaimed singer, songwriter Maysa whose current CD Metamorphosis debuted at #1 on the Billboard Contemporary Jazz Chart; world-renowned jazz pianist Larry Willis with the Eubie Blake Legacy Band under the direction of Craig Alston; actors Robert Lee Hardy and Chantia Jackson performing a scene from Shakespeare's Othello; much-admired cellist Troy Stuart; and a concert version of Porgy and Bess under the direction of Hugh Carey.

Eubie Live!, which provides patrons with a unique ambiance, reminiscent of the jazz clubs of the 1920s and 30s, is the newly renovated space on the fourth floor at the EBNJICC at 847 North Howard Street in Baltimore's historic Mount Vernon Cultural District. Eubie Live! will allow The Center to continue to attract a diverse group of performance artists from all racial, ethnic and economic backgrounds reflective of the population in the city and region. All arts and music programs at Eubie Live! share a common vision born from Executive Director Troy Burton's personal experience and reflection: "Our lives will be enriched through up close and personal involvement in the making of art and delicate exposure to the masters who teach and perform it."

The mission of Eubie Live! is to preserve, present, and promote the highest caliber of performance and artistic expression for youth and adults in Baltimore. "Eubie Live! strengthens the Baltimore arts community and contributes to the overall cultural and artistic diversity of the region through its scheduled performances," Burton explains. "In time, I foresee that the venue will reach both a national and international audience with its live performances and recordings."

At the core of Burton's long-range vision for EBNJICC is a community arts center that celebrates and empowers all guests. "I want the performing artists who will come to Eubie Live! to perform with an understanding that we are a cultural institution," Burton says, "And most patrons should leave feeling that they received more from their Eubie Live! experience than they expected.

"Reminiscent of a past era in Baltimore when the artistry of Billie Holiday, Cab Calloway, Chick Webb and Eubie Blake were common place, our guests should feel a sense of 'hope,' 'joy,' 'passion' and 'the spirit of the place,'" Burton adds. Many patrons will want to come back and frequent Eubie Live! choosing from a multitude of richly diverse performers and performances planned to share their expertise and talents.

Totaling more than 2,000 square feet in area, Eubie Live! comfortably seats more than 100 patrons; and is

physically challenged accessible. The space includes the latest technologies in sound to give patrons the best performing arts experience possible. After nearly a year of construction and renovations, the converted

The Eubie Blake National Jazz Institute and Cultural Center is open Wednesday 1 p.m. – 6 p.m., Friday from 12 noon to 6 p.m., Saturday from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m., and Sunday by appointment.

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For more than three decades, the Eubie Blake National Jazz Institute and Cultural Center has sought to bring creative expression and urban consciousness to Baltimore through visual and performing arts education and development opportunities for children, youth and adults in our community.