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**May 9, 2008**

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## **Nancy King and Bill Royston & Portland Jazz Festival Cited by Jazz Journalists Association**

# **TWO OREGONIANS NOMINATED FOR TOP JAZZ AWARDS**

**Winners to be Honored in New York on June 18**

The Jazz Journalists Association (JJA) has announced the nominations for the **12<sup>th</sup> Annual Jazz Awards**. Two Oregonians have for the first time been nominated, including **Nancy King** for Best Female Vocalist and **Bill Royston and Portland Jazz Festival** for Jazz Event/Jazz Producer of the Year. No Oregonian has ever been previously nominated for any of the 40 different JJA Jazz Award categories. Winners will be announced on June 18 at the annual JJA gala in New York.

The JJA Jazz Awards are made in recognition and celebration of excellence in jazz and jazz journalism. Voting is limited to nearly 2,000 professional writers and journalists comprising the JJA membership internationally. The entire slate of nominations is available to the public on the Jazz Journalists Association website at [jazzhouse.org](http://jazzhouse.org).

A northwest icon and veteran jazz singer, Nancy King has been nominated for the first time, and will compete with other nominees Dianne Reeves, Roberta Gambarini, Abbey Lincoln, and Dee Dee Bridgewater for top female vocalist honors.

The Portland Jazz Festival nomination, however, was more of a surprise. *Jazz Times* magazine recently remarked, "In five short years, the Portland Jazz Festival has miraculously jockeyed its way into the short list of American festivals worth heeding closely. The recipe for success is to take a programming agenda that is balanced, savvy and adventurous by degrees with an attractive, cooperative and workable city, and keep a grip on quality control. It also takes a director with stubborn vision, and director Bill Royston has the right stuff. The buzz continues to grow..."

Specifically acknowledged for the programming of *The Shape of Jazz to Come* programming last February, as well as its strong education & outreach initiatives, Portland Jazz Festival will contend with such other world class jazz events as Jazz at Lincoln Center (New York), Guelph Jazz Festival and Colloquium (Ontario), Vision Festival (NY), and Highlights in Jazz series (Columbia University).

Portland Jazz Festival was established in 2003 in order to promote jazz as America's indigenous art form with the unique twist of promoting Portland as a cultural destination utilizing an aggressive cultural tourism marketing initiative. The 2008 Portland Jazz Festival (February 15-24) drew a total audience of over 35,000 while acting as a catalyst for sales of an estimated 2,000 hotel room nights over the 2-week period. The 2009 Portland Jazz Festival (February 13-22) will be dedicated to *Blue Note @ 70*, celebrating the 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Blue Note Records.

Bill Royston has been a performing arts professional for 40 years, and has produced jazz events since 1984 when he started the nationally acclaimed jazz program at Penn's Landing in Philadelphia. Since that time he has directed such jazz efforts as Berks Jazz Fest, Clifford Brown Jazz Festival, Rehoboth Beach Jazz Festival, and the Mt. Hood Jazz Festival.

Other 2008 Jazz Award nomination highlights include **Lifetime Achievement in Jazz** (Ornette Coleman, Herbie Hancock, Wayne Shorter, Marian McPartland & Lee Konitz); **Artist of the Year** (Terence Blanchard, Ornette Coleman, Sonny Rollins, Maria Schneider & Herbie Hancock); and **Album of the Year** Terence Blanchard, Michael Brecker, Maria Schneider, & Herbie Hancock).

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