

Beacon On The Scene

Jazzmobile presents first annual Jazzy Awards honoring Dr. Billy Taylor

By Audrey J. Bernard
Lifestyles & Society Editor

On Monday, October 10, 2011, Jazzmobile, Inc., the Harlem-based organization that pioneered the concept of bringing jazz into the community and creating new audiences with mobile jazz performances, hosted its first annual Jazzy Awards Celebration: In Honor of Dr. Billy Taylor's 90th birthday (1921-2010) at the Hudson Theatre, 145 West 44th Street in New York City that attracted over 300 revelers who were treated to a memorable concert featuring special performances by **Dianne Reeves, Frank Wess, Jimmy Heath, Wycliff**

Gordon and the Jazzmobile Big Band conducted by **Cecil Bridgewater**.

In addition to the performances, legendary Jazz Impresario, **George Wein** and **JPMorgan Chase Foundation** were honored for their significant contributions to Jazz and their continuous support of Jazzmobile.

Wynton Marsalis, artistic director for Jazz at Lincoln Center, presented the Jazzy Award to Chase while **Dick Cashin**, managing director of One Equity Partners and a board member of the Newport Festivals Foundation, made the presentation to Wein. Marsalis also presented an award created from a work by renowned

artist **Leroy Neiman** to Mrs. **Billy (Theodora) Taylor** in recognition of what would have been Dr. Taylor's 90th birthday and for his many contributions to Jazz including the founding of Jazzmobile.

The Honorable **H. Carl McCall** served as committee chair for the Jazzy Awards celebration with special thanks to **Bill Lynch Associates**. Honorary Chairmen were **Spike Lee** and **Wynton Marsalis**, with **Kathleen Battle, Ruby Dee**, Honorable **David Dinkins, Joyce Dinkins, Danny Simmons** and **Theodora Taylor** serving as honorary committee members. The Steering Committee included **Eileen A. Frank, H. Sidney Holmes III**, and **Kim Tay-**

lor-Thompson.

Jazzmobile, Inc., America's oldest not-for-profit arts organization created just for Jazz, was founded in 1964 by NEA Jazz Master **Dr. Billy Taylor** and **Daphne Arnstein**. Its mission is to present, preserve, promote, and propagate Jazz – "America's classical music."

This mission is implemented through quality jazz education and performance programs, workshops, master classes, lecture demonstrations, arts enrichment programs, as well as out-of-doors mobile Jazz performances and those in clubs and major concert halls here and abroad. Jazzmobile serves approximately 100,000 people in New York City and its outlying ar-

reas each year.

Presently Jazzmobile is run by a board of directors comprised of **Robin Bell-Stevens** (director), **Ronald Benjamin**, CPA (treasurer), **Eileen Frank**, CPCU.ARE (director), **Darrell S. Gay**, Esq. (chairman), **Timothy Greenfield** (secretary) and **Michael Jones**, M.D. (director).

Prior to the jazzy concert, VIPs attended a pre-concert reception hosted by a select group of philanthropists supporting Jazzmobile. The event was impeccably produced by **Dwight Johnson Design**; and legendary jazz publicist **Carolyn McClair** handled media relations. (Photos by **Gerald Peart** and **Hubert Williams**)



Valorie Williams, Congressman Charles Rangel, Julie Menin



David Ushery



Vy Higginsen



Mrs. Billy Taylor & daughter



Michelle Paige Paterson



Congressman Charles Rangel, Mrs. David (Joyce) Dinkins



Savanna Bell-Stevens, Robin Bell-Stevens, saxophonist Jimmy Heath



Robin Bell-Stevens, Cobi Narita



Danny Simmons, Robin Bell-Stevens, Congressman Charles Rangel, Mayor David Dinkins, Honorable Carl McCall



Mayor & Mrs. David Dinkins, Lana Turner, Roscoe Brown, Jr.



Billie Allen, Guy Davis, Ruby Dee, Council Member Letitia James, Rachel Robinson



Theodore J. Grershon (Columbia Univ.) & wife



George Wein, Dr. Glory Van Scott, Jerry Chazen, Robin Bell-Stevens



Savanna Bell-Stevens, Ruby Dee, Robin Bell-Stevens