



**MEDIA ALERT**  
**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**CITY OF LOS ANGELES DEPARTMENT OF CULTURAL AFFAIRS  
PRESENTS THE MINGUS BIG BAND CONCERTS AS PART OF  
THE CHARLES MINGUS - SON OF WATTS - MUSICAL CARAVAN PROJECT**

**Madrid Theatre - October 3, 2008, 8:00 p.m.**  
21622 Sherman Way, Canoga Park, CA 91303

**Warner Grand Theatre - October 4, 2008, 8:00 p.m.**  
478 West 6<sup>th</sup> Street, San Pedro, CA 90731

Los Angeles – The City of Los Angeles Department of Cultural Affairs (DCA) presents two major Jazz concerts focusing on the music of Charles Mingus as part of “The Charles Mingus – Son of Watts – Musical Caravan.” The two performances, one at the Madrid Theatre in the San Fernando Valley, and the other at the Warner Grand Theatre in San Pedro, will feature the music of Charles Mingus performed by nationally recognized musicians in The Mingus Big Band.

The two Jazz concerts are part of a nine-month program that includes additional performances and exhibitions at various other DCA venues that was made possible by a grant from the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA). In October 2007, the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) awarded DCA the second largest American Masterpieces Presenting grant to produce this Musical Caravan, which celebrates the life and music of jazz artist Charles Mingus (1922-1979), a highly influential bass player, accomplished pianist, bandleader, and composer who resided in the Watts district of Los Angeles.

The Mingus Big Band was created to celebrate the music of the composer and bassist, Charles Mingus, who passed away in 1979. Under the artistic direction of Sue Mingus, the band tours extensively in the United States and abroad, headlining at major jazz festivals. The 14-piece jazz orchestra will give an overview of the breadth and variety of Mingus music so the audience gets an idea of the prodigious legacy of composition that Charles Mingus left behind. With nine recordings to its credit – six of which have been nominated for Grammy Awards – The Mingus Big Band is keeping Mingus music alive and vibrant for future generations.

The renowned trumpet players Lew Soloff, Greg Gisbert, and Sean Jones will head the line-up of the phenomenal Mingus Big Band. The orchestra also includes Justin Faulkner, an astonishing young drummer still in high school in Philadelphia who has played with major figures from the jazz world.

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## Page 2 – The Mingus Big Band Concerts

The line-up of performers for the events includes:

Saxophones: **Seamus Blake, Mark Gross, Jaleel Shaw, Scott Robinson,**  
and **Jason Marshall**

Trumpets: **Lew Soloff, Greg Gisbert, and Sean Jones**

Trombones: **Clark Gayton, Conrad Herwig, and Earl McIntyre**

Drums: **Justin Faulkner**

Bass: **Andy McKee**

Piano: **Kenny Drew, Jr.**

General ticket prices for the Charles Mingus Big Band concerts are \$25 and \$15 for groups of ten or more, senior citizens, and students with valid IDs. Tickets for the Warner Grand Theatre concert may be purchased online at [www.itsmyseat.com](http://www.itsmyseat.com) or [www.warnergrand.org](http://www.warnergrand.org). Tickets for the Madrid Theatre concert are available for purchase at 818.347.9419. Tickets for the concerts may also be purchased at the theater box offices, up to one hour prior to each performance. For general information, the public may call the Warner Grand Theatre at 310.548.2493 and the Madrid Theatre at 818.347.9419, or visit [www.culturela.org](http://www.culturela.org).

### **About the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA)**

The National Endowment for the Arts is a public agency dedicated to supporting excellence in the arts, both new and established; bringing the arts to all Americans; and providing leadership in arts education. Established by Congress in 1965 as an independent agency of the federal government, the Endowment is the nation's largest annual funder of the arts, bringing great art to all 50 states, including rural areas, inner cities, and military bases.

### **About DCA**

The Department of Cultural Affairs (DCA) generates and supports high quality arts and cultural experiences for Los Angeles residents and visitors. DCA advances the social and economic impact of the arts and assures access to arts and cultural experiences through grant making, marketing, public and community arts programming, arts education, and creating partnerships with artists and arts and cultural organizations in every community in the City of Los Angeles.

DCA grants \$3.4 million annually to over 300 artists and nonprofit arts organizations and awards the Artist-in-Residence (A.I.R.) and City of Los Angeles (C.O.L.A.) Individual Artist Fellowships. The Department provides arts and cultural programming in its numerous Neighborhood Arts and Cultural Centers, theaters, and historic sites, and manages several arts and education programs for young people. It directs public art projects and manages the City's Arts Development Fee and Percent for Arts Programs, and the Art Collection and Murals Programs. DCA markets the City's cultural events through development and collaboration with strategic partners, design and production of creative promotional materials, and management of the culturela.org website.

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