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**CELEBRATE BLACK HISTORY MONTH AT THE ANNENBERG CENTER
WITH GRAMMY® AWARD-WINNING JAZZ BASSIST
AND PHILADELPHIA NATIVE CHRISTIAN MCBRIDE –
SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 26**

**MCBRIDE WILL PERFORM HIS ORIGINAL JAZZ OPUS
THE MOVEMENT, REVISITED
HONORING PIONEERS OF THE CIVIL RIGHTS MOVEMENT**

Prominent University of Pennsylvania alumni to serve as narrators

New Spirit of Penn Gospel Choir and Penn Jazz Ensemble also featured

(Philadelphia, February 7, 2011) — In celebration of Black History month, the Annenberg Center for the Performing Arts presents Grammy® award-winning bass player and composer **Christian McBride's** jazz opus ***The Movement, Revisited*** on **Saturday, February 26 at 8:00 PM**. This moving musical tribute, which blends together spoken text with gospel and jazz, features four movements about the great icons of the Civil Rights movement – Rosa Parks, Muhammad Ali, Malcolm X and Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., as well as a newly created fifth movement inspired by President Barack Obama. McBride will be joined onstage by University of Pennsylvania musical ensembles the New Spirit of Penn Gospel Choir and the Penn Jazz Ensemble, as well as prominent University of Pennsylvania alumni, who will serve as the narrators for each movement. For tickets or for more information on both performances, please visit www.AnnenbergCenter.org or call 215.898.3900. Tickets can also be purchased in person at the Annenberg Center Box Office.

Confirmed narrators include University of Pennsylvania alumni Lolita Jackson (C'89) as Rosa Parks; Stephanie Renee (C' 91) as Malcolm X; Christopher Sample (C'03) as Muhammad Ali; and Claire Lomax (C'84 and Penn Trustee) as Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Clemson Smith Muñiz (C'79) will serve as master of ceremonies.

According to McBride, “the sacrifices made by these African-Americans have been so enveloped in myth, that, to a large extent, their names are remembered more than their

accomplishments. This piece will capture musically how their deeds shaped our world, and remind us of our responsibility to see, paving the way for so many to live a better life.”

Christian McBride composed *The Movement* in 1998 as a four-movement suite. Ten years later, the piece was expanded and revamped to feature a gospel choir, jazz band and four speakers, as well as a fifth movement inspired by the election of our nation’s first black president, Barack Obama. *The Movement, Revisited* had its world premiere at the Walt Disney Hall in Los Angeles in 2008, marking the 40th anniversary of the assassination of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

Born on May 31, 1972 in Philadelphia, McBride began playing electric bass at age nine, followed by acoustic bass two years later. His first mentors were his father, Lee Smith (a renowned bassist in Philly) and his great uncle, Howard Cooper (a disciple of the jazz avant-garde). While intensely studying classical music, McBride's love for jazz also blossomed. Upon his 1989 graduation from Philadelphia's High School for the Creative and Performing Arts (C.A.P.A.), he was awarded a partial scholarship to attend the world-renowned Juilliard School in New York City. McBride has been featured on more than 200 recordings and composed nearly 40 musical works along with dozens of arrangements. He has collaborated with a broad spectrum of artists from McCoy Tyner and Sting to Kathleen Battle and Diana Krall. In 2005, he was officially named the co-director of the National Jazz Museum in Harlem. That same year, he was named the second Creative Chair for Jazz of the Los Angeles Philharmonic Association.

Pre-Show Artist Chat

Ticket holders will have the unique opportunity to attend a special pre-show artist chat with Christian McBride facilitated by Lolita Jackson, Annenberg Center Board Member, jazz singer and former member of the Penn Gospel Choir. The chat is part of the Annenberg Center’s Artists & Audiences Changing Lives program and begins at 7:00 PM. To learn more about the Artists & Audiences Changing Lives program, please visit **[Annenberg Center.org/ACL](http://AnnenbergCenter.org/ACL)**.

The Annenberg Center for the Performing Arts

The University of Pennsylvania’s Annenberg Center for the Performing Arts has been the region's leading multi-disciplinary performance venue for theatre, dance, jazz, world music, new music and children’s programming since its inception in 1971. The Annenberg Center’s curatorial vision emphasizes four primary values: artistic integrity, cultural diversity, curatorial balance and a willingness to take risks. By presenting world-renowned and cutting edge artists and companies who express adventuresome perspectives on contemporary issues, timeless ideas and diverse cultures, the Annenberg Center promotes critical thinking and dialogue among its audiences, creating a uniquely rewarding arts experience.

The Annenberg Center has achieved national recognition for its outstanding Dance Celebration series (presented in partnership with Philadelphia's Dance Affiliates), touring theatre series, and for its superior offerings for children, including both its Student Discovery Series and the acclaimed 27-year-

old Philadelphia International Children's Festival, the oldest festival of its kind in the United States. Through generous grants from The Wallace Foundation and the National Endowment for the Arts, the Annenberg Center also showcases its commitment to local artists each year through its By Local series.

Throughout its history, the Annenberg Center has presented innovative and critically-acclaimed theatre productions with some of the biggest stars of stage and screen including Liv Ullmann and Sam Waterston in *A Doll's House* and *A Streetcar Named Desire* with Glenn Close. University of Pennsylvania alumnus and noteworthy Broadway producer and director Harold Prince staged many of his plays at the Annenberg Center before taking them to Broadway.

CALENDAR EDITORS PLEASE NOTE:

**Christian McBride
with Penn Jazz Ensemble and New Spirit of Penn Gospel Choir**

Saturday, February 26 at 8:00 PM

Zellerbach Theatre at the Annenberg Center for the Performing Arts

Celebrate Black History Month with Philadelphia native and bass phenom Christian McBride as he leads his band in a new jazz opus, *The Movement, Revisited*, featuring a special collaboration with the Penn Jazz Ensemble and New Spirit of Penn Gospel Choir. With a just-added movement dedicated to the 2008 election of America's first black president, this monumental work is a tribute to the great icons of the civil rights crusade including Rosa Parks, Muhammad Ali, Malcolm X and Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. *The Movement, Revisited* "captures musically how their deeds shaped our world and reminds us of our responsibility to pave the way for many to live a better life," says McBride. Co-Director of the National Jazz Museum in Harlem, McBride is known for not only being one of the most prolific, passionate and talented jazz bassists of today, but for his performances on hundreds of albums and in concert with artists such as David Sanborn, Chick Corea, Sting, McCoy Tyner, Diana Krall, Natalie Cole, Kathleen Battle and George Benson.

Media support for the Annenberg Center's 10/11 Jazz Series is provided by *City Paper* and WRTI.

Tickets: \$20-\$40. For more information please call 215.898.3900 or visit www.AnnenbergCenter.org

For further press information or to set up interviews, please contact:

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