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CALIFORNIA JAZZ FOUNDATION TO HONOR DR. BOBBY RODRIGUEZ AND BUDDY COLLETTE AT THE ANNUAL “GIVE THE BAND A HAND” GALA APRIL 14, 2018

LOS ANGELES (March 1, 2018) – The California Jazz Foundation will recognize legendary trumpeter/educator and Grammy award-nominated Dr. Bobby Rodriguez and the late Buddy Collette, trail-blazing bandleader and woodwind player, at the 6th annual “Give the Band a Hand” Gala fundraiser. The event honors the best of the jazz community while raising money to provide support to California’s jazz musicians in financial or medical crisis. It will be held at the L.A. Hotel Downtown, 333 S. Figueroa Street, Los Angeles on April 14, 2018 at 5:30 p.m.

The evening will feature live and silent auctions, dinner, video tributes, awards presentations and “Jazz Without Borders,” a live concert. This year’s all-star band will be the JazzLatino Orchestra directed by John Stephens and featuring Dr. Bobby Rodriguez, Rickey Woodard, Billy Mitchell, Justo Almario, Munyungo Jackson, Richie Gajate-Garcia, Ann Patterson, George Bohanan, Richard Simon, Clayton Cameron and other top jazz musicians. The young aspiring jazz artists of JazzAmerica, Buddy Collette’s legacy project, will also perform, under the direction of Richard Simon.

Dr. Bobby will receive the Nica award, which is awarded to those who exemplify the legacy of the late Baroness Pannonica (Nica) de Koenigswarter, the iconic patron of such great jazz artists as Charlie Parker and Thelonious Monk. Dr. Bobby, born and raised in East Los Angeles, is a virtuoso trumpeter, dynamic bandleader, charismatic performer and a gifted composer, author and educator.

Dr. Bobby has produced seven of his own recordings as well as those of other artists, earning one gold and three platinum records and a Grammy award nomination. He has won numerous awards including a Lifetime Achievement Award in Jazz from Drew University, KLON's Best New Latin Jazz Artist and "Jazz Educator of the Year." He is director of LatinJazz

music and jazz trumpet at UCLA, UC Irvine and Pasadena City College; director of the Jazz it Up! Adventure; and president of the Hispanic Musicians Association, Inc.

CJF will honor the late Buddy Collette with the Heritage award for his significant contributions to the jazz community. William “Buddy” Collette was born in 1921 in Los Angeles and developed a love for music at a young age, forming his first group with friends and future jazz legends Britt Woodman and Charles Mingus. By age seventeen, Collette was performing professionally on alto sax, clarinet and flute on the vibrant Central Avenue jazz scene of the 1940s.

In 1955, Collette gained national recognition as a founding member of Chico Hamilton’s legendary quintet. He worked in the studios, played in clubs, and taught aspiring jazz musicians including the now-renowned woodwind players Eric Dolphy, Charles Lloyd and Frank Morgan.

Collette was the first African-American to play in a TV band, performing for the Groucho Marx show "You Bet Your Life." He also helped lead the successful struggle to eliminate segregation in the American Federation of Musicians and merge the black and white locals in Los Angeles. Collette died in 2010.

The annual gala is an important source of financial support for CJF. “The California Jazz Foundation fulfills a critical need by assisting California’s jazz musicians in crisis,” says Edythe L. Bronston, CJF Founder and President. “Many older musicians have no Social Security or health insurance, and some see no residuals from their important work. They rely on us and we rely on the community to keep the Foundation financially sound and swinging.”

ABOUT THE CALIFORNIA JAZZ FOUNDATION

The California Jazz Foundation is a nonprofit organization created to aid and assist California jazz musicians in financial or medical crisis. CJF is committed to providing access to quality social and economic services for all eligible applicants through a team of caring, knowledgeable professionals in collaboration with community partners.

Since its founding in 2006, CJF has touched the lives of hundreds of jazz musicians, providing rent and mortgage payments, housing relocation, arranging for medical and dental care, in-home nursing, discount prescriptions and helping with emergencies as they arise.

The California Jazz Foundation is also committed to raising musicians' awareness of the importance of prevention and early treatment of disease through free public education and community outreach programs.

For more information, visit www.californiajazzfoundation.org

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