



Contact: Maureen P. Mangan
Direct Line: 1-516-224-5828

JAZZ, HISTORY, AND LEGACY: LOUIS ARMSTRONG'S GREAT MIGRATION STORY

LICM Theater Presents Jazz at Lincoln Center on MLK Weekend

The LICM Theater continues its Musical Explorers! series when Jazz at Lincoln Center brings "Louis Armstrong's Great Migration" to audiences on Sunday, January 19 and Monday, January 20 at noon and 2 p.m. Louis Armstrong's Great Migration performances will feature **Charles Turner** (vocals), **Summer Camargo** (trumpet), **David Drake** (piano), **Brandi Disterheft** (bass) and **David Hawkins** (drums).

The Jazz at Lincoln Center performance dates were selected to underscore the deep connection between this American musical genre, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., and the civil rights movement. During his 1964 visit to the Berlin Jazz Festival, Dr. King famously stated, "*Much of the power of our Freedom Movement in the United States has come from this music [jazz]. It has strengthened us with its sweet rhythms when courage began to fail. It has calmed us with its rich harmonies when spirits were down.*" Jazz, for King, was more than music; it was a form of expression that spoke directly to the heart of the civil rights struggle.

"It's an honor to bring this important piece of musical history to life for our visitors, showing how a uniquely American musical genre is intertwined with the movement that has played such a pivotal role in advancing freedom and unity in our country," said LICM President Erika Floreska.

Floreska also shared her personal excitement about hosting the performances at LICM. "I'm thrilled to share this important piece of American history with our audiences, and it's especially meaningful to see two key aspects of my career come together in such a beautiful way."

Having spent 14 years working in the Education Department at Jazz at Lincoln Center, Floreska now has the opportunity to combine her passion for jazz education and advocacy to inspire and engage the Children's Museum audience in a new way.

Louis Armstrong's Great Migration

In this concert, audience will learn about the Great Migration, the period between 1916 and 1970 when nearly six million African America families moved from the rural South to urban cities in the North to seek better economic opportunities and escape segregation and racial violence. Louis Armstrong was part of this migration; leaving his home in New Orleans on a journey that took him first to Chicago and later to New York where he would claim his role as one of the most influential figures of the twentieth century. His virtuosic trumpet style and unique singing voice brought joy to millions of people around the world.

LICM's "Musical Explorers!" series presents live music concerts designed especially for kids. Diving into a world of rhythm and melody, this series showcases a variety of musical styles from around the globe. Each performance takes young audiences on an exciting journey through sound, featuring legends, trailblazers and GRAMMY winners.

Musical Explorers! performances are sponsored by Roni Kohen-Lemle and Robert Lemle. The Jazz at Lincoln Center performances on January 19 and 20 are priced at \$5 with Museum admission and \$10 theater only. Tickets are available at the Museum Box Office or online at www.licm.org/theater.

This concert is aligned with the Jazz at Lincoln Center residency at the Tilles Center. On Sunday, April 13, LICM will continue this collaboration when it hosts performances of WeBop Family Jazz Party, aimed at children 8 months to 8 years old.

About the Long Island Children's Museum (www.licm.org)

The mission of Long Island Children's Museum (LICM) is to connect all our communities' children, and those who care for them, to a life of wonder, imagination and exploration. At LICM, children discover their passions and their relationship to the world we share. The 40,000-square-foot museum serves over 300,000 children and adults annually. The private, not-for-profit institution chartered by the New York State Board of Regents, offers museum-based educational programs and cultural experiences, as well as an extensive community

outreach program offered in schools, libraries and youth centers across Long Island. Additionally, the Children's Museum operates the historic Nunley's Carousel in association with Nassau County, one of three intact Stein & Goldstein carousels still in existence.

Recognized with several honors, including the National Medal from the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS), LICM is accredited by the American Alliance of Museums (AAM), the gold standard of museum excellence. It is currently the only accredited children's museum in New York State and is one of only 16 accredited children's museums nationwide. LICM has earned 4-stars on Charity Navigator and has Platinum Transparency on Candid.