

Media Contact:
Marshall Lamm
mlamm@sfjazz.org
510-928-1410

SFJAZZ APPOINTS DENISE YOUNG AS BOARD CHAIR

Accomplished Technology Executive, Artist, Board Veteran to Lead

SFJAZZ Board of Trustees Starting September 2020

(SAN FRANCISCO, CA, July 22, 2020) -- SFJAZZ announces the appointment of Denise Young as its new Board Chair commencing September 1, 2020. Young will succeed current Chair Michael Lazarus. During Lazarus' three-year-term as Board Chair, SFJAZZ has grown to become one of the country's premiere jazz presenters and a global leader in jazz education.

Ms. Young has served as a Trustee of SFJAZZ for five years and takes the helm as Board Chair in a year of transition. As SFJAZZ enters its 38th year, the organization recently appointed Greg Stern as CEO and approaches the milestone 10th anniversary of the critically-acclaimed and award-winning SFJAZZ Center. As the COVID-19 pandemic has halted the activities of performing arts organizations worldwide, SFJAZZ has continued to innovate with the initial introduction of its digital offering, Fridays at Five, a weekly live stream of a concert from the SFJAZZ Center. Also stepping into a new role alongside Denise will be Bruce Cozadd as Vice-Chair. Cozadd has served as a Trustee of SFJAZZ for four years.

Ms. Young brings experience and leadership that will help guide SFJAZZ'S digital transformation and continued excellence. She built an impressive 20-year-career at Apple, holding a variety of executive roles, including establishing the cultural experience in the Apple Stores and taking them to a 14 country global footprint. She then took on the Chief Human Resources role at Apple. For the

past three years, Ms. Young served as Executive-in-Residence at two Academic institutions, Cornell Tech in Manhattan and Colorado College. She has focused on preparing young leaders to lead responsibly and inclusively. She is also an accomplished artist in her own right with a classically trained background and has worked with numerous premiere artists such as Pulitzer Prize winner Henry Threadgill and renowned jazz duo Tuck and Patti.

SFJAZZ CEO Greg Stern noted, “I am thrilled to welcome Denise to this Board leadership role. Her expertise and experience will be critical to ensuring the continued success of SFJAZZ. I look forward to partnering with her to continue to grow SFJAZZ, including expanding our digital offering, while also building a more diverse and equitable organization and culture.”

SFJAZZ Founder and Artistic Director, Randall Kline commented on Young’s elevation to Board Chair, “As an SFJAZZ Trustee for the past five years, Denise has been actively engaged and a thoughtful contributor to SFJAZZ. Her passion for and knowledge of jazz, combined with her professional expertise, make for a potent combination to lead SFJAZZ during a time of great change. I look forward to supporting her in steering SFJAZZ through the next phase of our evolution.”

Ms. Young said, “This is a critical moment in time for SFJAZZ to be not only stewards of music, but to be meaningfully engaged in the kind of conversations that will be world changing through this music. Jazz, Black American music, and the social conditions it has narrated will continue to serve as a lens for humanity to see itself more clearly and fully.”

Outgoing SFJAZZ Board Chair Michael Lazarus said, “Both Denise and Bruce are seasoned and talented executives and will bring a new energy and perspective to the future of SFJAZZ. They, and the Board of Trustees, in collaboration with the strong partnership of Greg Stern and Randall Kline will help guide the organization to an even stronger future.”

This Board leadership change comes during a time when all performing arts organizations and cultural institutions are challenged due to the global pandemic. SFJAZZ, a year-round presenter of innovative programming on two different stages at the SFJAZZ Center, is a leading advocate and practitioner of jazz education throughout the Bay Area, with a range of programs benefiting schools, adult learning, and the community-at-large. Many education programs, in addition to Fridays at Five, have continued in a digital format. On August 20, 2020, SFJAZZ, in partnership with the National Endowment for the Arts, will present the 2020 NEA Jazz Masters Concert. The virtual concert will feature exclusive performances from the new class of NEA Jazz Masters and an all-star group of jazz legends and luminaries.

ABOUT SFJAZZ

Founded in 1983, SFJAZZ presents the greatest names in jazz, Latin and global music and nurtures the art of improvisation through its year-round concert, commissioning and education programs. The West Coast's biggest jazz presenter serves over 200,000 fans and students every year and has several award-winning resident jazz ensembles - the world renowned SFJAZZ Collective and the SFJAZZ High School All-Stars. SFJAZZ Center opened in 2013 in the vibrant performing arts district of San Francisco. The luminous SFJAZZ Center was designed by San Francisco architect Mark Cavagnero and the LEED-Gold certified center offers the superb acoustics of a great concert hall and the relaxed intimacy of a jazz club.

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