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MEDIA CONTACT:

Hillary Hardwick | 704.353.9204

[hillary.hardwick@bechtler.org](mailto:hillary.hardwick@bechtler.org)

Images and Interviews Available

## CELEBRATING 10 YEARS: A JAZZ AT THE BECHTLER BIRTHDAY BASH

*Nnenna Freelon, Nicolas Bearde and Russell Malone to headline an exclusive, one-night event January 3, 2020*

**CHARLOTTE, NC.** – The Bechtler Museum of Modern Art announces a special, one-night only event designed to celebrate all things jazz as the Bechtler Museum of Modern Art kicks off its 10-year anniversary in 2020.

**Celebrating 10 Years: A Jazz at the Bechtler Birthday Bash**, a special anniversary edition of the museum's monthly Jazz at the Bechtler series, showcases some of the best of the best on Friday, January 3, at 7:30 pm.

Nationally-renowned jazz artists Russell Malone, Nicolas Bearde and Nnenna Freelon join the Ziad Jazz Quartet on the stage of the Blumenthal Performing Arts Knight Theater for an unforgettable evening of jazz and celebration to make sure we kick off 2020 on the right note(s). Anniversary tickets for the January 3, 2020 *Celebrating 10 Years: A Jazz at the Bechtler Birthday Bash* concert are \$50.00. Tickets available for purchase online at [Bechtler.org](http://Bechtler.org) or in person at the Blumenthal Box Office at the Belk Theater (130 N. Tryon).

**Jazz at the Bechtler** is among the museum's original programming line-up dating back to 2010 – the year the Bechtler Museum of Modern Art first opened its doors. **Jazz at the Bechtler** concerts began with 30 attendees gathered on the Bechtler's outdoor plaza and expanded to two shows in August 2013 to meet increasing demand. The series continues to sell out and serve standing room only crowds each month. Designed to provide a platform where mid-century art meets mid-century music, the program series has welcomed more than 50,000 attendees over the past decade to hear top jazz artists like harmonica player Frederic Yonnet, drummer Thelonious Monk, III and trombonist/bassist Chris Brubeck.

Recently named by Foursquare City Guide as one of top five best places for Jazz in Charlotte, the Bechtler has hosted a variety of jazz musicians over the years for audiences looking for a unique scene or alternative addition to the more traditional club settings. **Jazz at the Bechtler** is held the first Friday of every month, and concertgoers may choose from one of two shows: 6 to 7:30 pm or 8:15 to 9:45 pm. Tickets are \$16 general public; \$10 members.

### 10-YEAR CELEBRATION CONCERT | MEET THE ARTISTS

#### **Russell Malone**

Four-time Grammy-nominated guitarist Russell Malone is described as one of the most commanding and versatile guitarists performing today. Born in Albany, Georgia, he began playing at the age of four with a toy guitar his mother bought him. He can move from blues to gospel to pop to R&B and jazz without hesitation, a rare facility that has prompted some of the highest profile artists in the world to call upon him. Malone has shared the stage with the likes of Diana Krall, Gladys Knight, Aretha Franklin, B.B. King, Natalie Cole, David Sanborn, Shirley Horn, Christina Aguilera, Harry Connick, Jr, Ron Carter, and Sonny Rollins.

### **Nicolas Bearde**

Recording artist Nicolas Bearde, a seasoned and highly respected showman, has established himself as a powerful presence in the contemporary jazz vocalist scene over the past couple of decades. His silky baritone sound invites comparisons to Johnny Hartman, Lou Rawls, and Joe Williams, and his wit and engaging rapport captures and draws the audience into his live performances.

### **Nnenna Freelon**

Six-time Grammy Award nominee Nnenna Freelon has earned a well-deserved reputation as a compelling and captivating live performer. In 2014, she starred in the critically acclaimed show "Georgia on My Mind: Celebrating the Music of Ray Charles" at the Venetian Hotel in Las Vegas. Nnenna is no stranger to the music of the master singer - she toured with Ray Charles, as well as many other great jazz artists including Ellis Marsalis, Al Jarreau, George Benson to name a few.

### **Ziad Jazz Quartet**

Ziad Rabie is an acclaimed saxophonist and the artistic director of the Bechtler Museum of Modern Art's Jazz at the Bechtler series, featuring the Ziad Jazz Quartet. The Ziad Jazz Quartet features Ziad Rabie, artistic director and saxophone; Noel Freidline, keyboards; Ron Brendle, bass; and Rick Dior (or Al Sergel), drums. Through performances and recordings, Ziad has made quite a niche for himself as one of the truly outstanding saxophonists in the United States. He has recorded three original albums, written over two hundred original compositions, and his distinctive saxophone sound has been recorded on over 20 albums of various jazz, rock and gospel artists including "The Godfather of Soul" James Brown, Gospel Music Hall of Fame recording artist John P. Kee, and chart-topping gospel recording artist Donald Lawrence and the Tri-City Singers. Ziad has also performed live with (or opened for) Herbie Hancock, Dizzy Gillespie, Dave Brubeck, Tony Bennett, Aretha Franklin, Gladys Knight, Roberta Flack, Lou Rawls, and Russell Malone to name a few.

**Support:** Jazz at the Bechtler monthly series is generously sponsored by PointGuard, and Classica Homes, and hospitality sponsor CE Rentals.

### **ABOUT THE BECHTLER MUSEUM OF MODERN ART**

The Bechtler Museum of Modern Art is dedicated to the exhibition of mid-20<sup>th</sup>-century modern art. It is named after the family of Andreas Bechtler who assembled and inherited a collection created by seminal figures in modernism. The museum is located at Levine Center for the Arts, 420 South Tryon Street, Charlotte. Operating hours are Monday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday and Saturday 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.; Sunday 12 p.m. - 5 p.m.; closed Tuesdays. For museum details visit [bechtler.org](http://bechtler.org).

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