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Contacts:

Shari Gasper | Communications Director | sgasper@overture.org | 608.443.1756

Hope Horne | Communications Intern | hhorne@overture.org

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“The Uptown Jazz Orchestra fills every inch of the room with a joyous noise.”

– Michael Elliott, PopMatters

“The UJO sound [combines] the dance-first sensibility of the Dirty Dozen Brass Band crossed with Count Basie’s early riff bands and post-1952 ‘New Testament’ orchestras [and] the sophisticated dialects of Ellington, Mingus, and Coltrane.”

– Ted Panken, DownBeat



Delfeayo Marsalis & The Uptown Jazz Orchestra brings a swingin’ performance to Madison this month

Madison, Wis. (Feb. 14, 2024) — [Delfeayo Marsalis & The Uptown Jazz Orchestra](#) is coming to Overture Center on Wednesday, Feb. 28 with an unforgettable night of music. The show will be held in Capitol Theater at 7:30 p.m. Tickets (\$45-\$65) are available at overture.org.

About Delfeayo Marsalis & The Uptown Jazz Orchestra

In 2007, NEA Jazz Master and Grammy Award winning trombonist Delfeayo Marsalis formed the Uptown Jazz Orchestra (UJO) for the purpose of keeping important jazz music traditions alive—such as riff-playing, spontaneous group improvisations and collective New Orleans instrumental polyphony. At the time, Marsalis realized that the New Orleans music community was lacking the infusion of young homegrown talent outside of the great brass band tradition, and he chose to form an orchestra that could present traditional, classic and modern compositions with authenticity. Since that time, UJO has grown into one of the premier large ensembles in the world, releasing three CDs to critical acclaim, and touring locally, nationally and internationally.

In 2008, Marsalis founded the educational program “Swinging with the Cool School” (a soft introduction to jazz for hip tots and adults), which was used as an experimental form of music therapy at the New Orleans Children Hospital. The Cool School has since expanded to introduce live instrumental jazz to students around the country, with the intent of helping young people develop a relationship with music that has gradually disappeared from mainstream radio and media at large. Through these performances, UJO is able to introduce students (and adults) to the wide emotional range of instrumental music.

Since 2021, UJO has produced the annual Jazz at Congo Square Festival (JACS) to celebrate New Orleans culture by presenting live performances of musicians, poets, dancers and Black Masking Indians to local and visiting audiences. JACS Festival also features local food and arts and craft vendors. Marsalis and the Uptown Jazz Orchestra plan to continue using the great legacy of American music to engage and hopefully inspire the younger generations for many years.

For more information, visit: theujo.org.

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OVERTURE CENTER FOR THE ARTS in Madison, Wis., is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit arts organization that features seven state-of-the-art performance spaces and four galleries where national and international touring artists, nine resident companies and hundreds of local artists engage people in nearly 700,000 educational and artistic experiences each year. With the vision to “create extraordinary experiences through the arts,” Overture’s mission is to support and elevate our community’s creative culture, economy and quality of life through the arts. overture.org

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