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**Jazz Legend Lou Donaldson to be Honored by the
Bronx Council on the Arts at a 6:00pm Ceremony on Wednesday, June 2nd**

(May 21, 2010 -- Bronx, NY) **Jazz Legend Lou Donaldson**, will be honored by the Bronx Council on the Arts (BCA) at a 6:00pm ceremony on Wednesday, June 2nd at the Longwood Art Gallery at Hostos Community College. The celebration will coincide with the evening's Bronx Culture Trolley activities and will include a presentation of the 2010 BRIO Award to 25 Bronx artists.

Jazz critics agree that **"Sweet Poppa Lou" Donaldson** is one of the greatest alto saxophonists of all time. He began his career as a bandleader with Blue Note Records in 1952 and by age 25, he had found his sound — the sound that earned him his famed nickname "Sweet Poppa Lou."

The second of four children, Lou was born in Badin, North Carolina on November 1, 1926. His mother, Lucy, a teacher, music director, and concert pianist, introduced Lou to the clarinet. He played in the marching band when he attended North Carolina A & T College and then in the Great Lakes Navy Band after being drafted in 1945. It was here that he picked up the alto saxophone and stylized himself after jazz legend Charlie Parker.

Lou moved to New York around 1950 with his new wife and longtime sweetheart, Maker, who remained his wife and business partner for 56 years until her death in 2006. Together they raised two daughters, Lydia and Carol, and called the Bronx their home, living in Throggs Neck from 1952 until 1963, when they moved to the Valley where Lou resides today.

Lou made a series of classic recordings for Blue Note in the 50s and takes pride in having showcased many musicians who made their first records as his sidemen. His *Alligator Bogaloo* (1967) was one of his most famous Blue Note recordings, many of which are still high demand favorites today. Lou also holds the title of the label's oldest musician from that notable era of jazz.

His accolades include being awarded an honorary Doctorate of Letters by his alma mater and a scholarship, awarded annually to the college's most gifted jazz musician, was established in his name. Lou was inducted into the International Jazz Hall of Fame and the recipient of countless additional honors and awards for his outstanding contributions to jazz, America's "classical music."

Today, at age 83, Lou keeps a busy travel schedule, plays golf, and continues to play at his very best, entertaining audiences worldwide with spirited performances that are always soulful, thoroughly swinging, and steeped in the blues.

Other activities taking place during that evening's Bronx Culture Trolley include exhibitions at the Longwood Art Gallery @ Hostos, the Bronx Museum of the Arts, Pregones Theater, BronxArtSpace, and LDR Studio Gallery. Additional activities include an after-party karaoke night at the Bruckner Bar & Grill.

The Longwood Art Gallery @ Hostos is located on the campus of Hostos Community College at 450 Grand Concourse and 149th Street. It is easily accessible by the #2, #4, and #5 trains. For additional information on BCA's 45th Anniversary Celebration at June 2nd's Bronx Culture Trolley, contact Phil Cardone at 718-931-9500 x33 or phil@bronxarts.org.



Photo courtesy of Mr. Donaldson

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