



Advisory Neighborhood Commission 2A

“Serving the Foggy Bottom and West End communities of Washington, D.C.”

May 27, 2016

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RE: Appreciation of Support for the 7th Annual Duke Ellington Birthday Concert

Dear Mr. Fraize and Mr. Levy,

At its regular meeting on May 18, 2016, Advisory Neighborhood Commission 2A (“ANC 2A” or “Commission”) considered the above-referenced matter. With six of seven commissioners present, a quorum at a duly-noticed public meeting, the Commission voted unanimously to adopt the following resolution, which was introduced by Commissioner Harmon and seconded by Commissioner Williams, by a vote of **(6-0-0)**:

WHEREAS, ANC 2A organized the 7th Annual Duke Ellington Birthday Concert on April 29th, 2016,

WHEREAS, the annual concert is held every year on the birthday of legendary jazz musician Duke Ellington, who was born in the West End neighborhood on April 29th, 1899,

WHEREAS, Duke Ellington Park, a triangle park at the intersection of 21st Street, M Street, and New Hampshire Avenue NW and the location of the annual concert, is located less than a block from Duke Ellington’s birthplace at 2129 Ward Place NW,

WHEREAS, the 2016 concert featured Peter Fraize, a professional lecturer in GW’s Department of Music, performing on the saxophone, and James Levy, another professional lecturer in GW’s Department of Music, performing on the keyboard,

WHEREAS, Mr. Fraize and Mr. Levy have appeared together in several of the previous concerts for Duke Ellington’s birthday,

WHEREAS, King James and the Serfs of Swing, a former jazz band that was part of GW’s Department of Music and was directed by Mr. Levy, performed during



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several of the previous concerts until large GW budget cuts in 2015 to the Department of Music forced the band to disband,

WHEREAS, during the 2016 concert, Mr. Fraize and Mr. Levy performed several works made popular by Duke Ellington and his orchestras, including “Satin Doll,” “Don’t Mean a Thing if it Ain’t Got that Swing,” “Take the A-Train,” “The Mooch,” and “Caravan,” and

WHEREAS, Mr. Fraize and Mr. Levy’s performance during the 2016 concert was described by one of the attendees as the top performance out of the seven concerts that the neighborhood has organized for Duke Ellington’s birthday thus far.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that ANC 2A extends its appreciation to Peter Fraize and James Levy for their continual support in organizing the annual Duke Ellington Birthday Concert in the West End, and for their excellent performance during this year’s concert.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that ANC 2A will continue to support a reversal of the drastic budget cuts to GW’s Department of Music so that important music education programs, including the King James and the Serfs of Swing jazz band, can return to the department.

Commissioners Florence Harmon (2A06@anc.dc.gov) and Patrick Kennedy (2A01@anc.dc.gov) are the Commission’s representatives in this matter.

ON BEHALF OF THE COMMISSION.

Sincerely,

Patrick Kennedy
Chairperson

CC: Steven Knapp, President, The George Washington University
Douglas Boyce, Chair, GW Department of Music
Renee McPhatter, Office of Government and Community Relations, GW