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ANNUAL FRANZ JACKSON JAZZ CELEBRATION EXPANDS IN ITS 6TH YEAR AND FRANZ'S LAST CONCERT IS RELEASED ON CD!

DOWAGIAC, MI – The 6th Annual Franz Jackson Jazz Celebration: Blowin' The Blues Away! will be held on Saturday, November 10th, at the Dowagiac Middle School Performing Arts Center, 57072 Riverside Drive, Dowagiac, Michigan, on Saturday, November 10, 2012 beginning at 12:00pm (ET).

The Franz Jackson Jazz Celebration honors the late Chicago jazz legend Franz Jackson, a former Dowagiac resident, for his lifelong contribution to the music world. This year, Jazz Celebration will celebrate the 100th anniversary of Franz's birth with an expanded one-day jazz concert event featuring a variety of professional jazz musicians from Chicago, Michigan and beyond. Currently scheduled to appear are CGQ (the Chris Greene Quartet) (www.chrisgreenejazz.com), and Gull Lake Jazz Orchestra (www.gulllakejazz.com) with additional acts to be added soon.

Jackson, who passed away at the age of 95 in May, 2008, started his professional career at the age of 16 with boogie-woogie pianist Albert Ammons and played with virtually every jazz great including Count Basie, Cab Calloway, Duke Ellington, Fats Waller, Fletcher Henderson, Ella Fitzgerald and Billie Holiday. His resume boasted numerous credits such as being a 2005 American Heritage Jazz Series Honoree as one of the Greatest Living Jazz Tenor Saxophonists, an appearance on "The Prairie Home Companion" with Garrison Keillor, an interview by Studs Terkel for Steppenwolf Theater's TRAFFIC series and a posthumous award of the Chicago Making History Maker Award shortly after his death in 2008. In November, 2007, Mr. Jackson's 95th birthday was celebrated in Dowagiac with a nearly 3-hour-long gala concert featuring two dozen musicians from across the country. The event raised over \$7,000 which was donated to four non-profit organizations focused on arts education, preservation and promotion.

To further Franz's philosophy on music and mentoring, The Franz Jackson Jazz Celebration is proud to collaborate with Charity Music, Inc., (www.charitymusicinc.org) on this year's event. Charity Music, Inc., is a Michigan-based non-profit organization that provides new and used musical instruments to homeless and disadvantaged children so that they may pursue their musical aspirations. A portion of the proceeds from the 6th Annual Franz Jackson Jazz Celebration will benefit Charity Music, Inc. and its programs.

Following this year's Jazz Celebration, the CD release party for "*Franz Jackson: Milestone*", Jackson's last recorded album, will take place at 8:00pm (ET) at the Wood Fire Trattoria, 134 S. Front Street, Dowagiac, MI. "*Milestone*" features the music recorded during Jackson's 95th birthday concert. The 2-disc CD set was funded through a grassroots campaign via Kickstarter.com by Jackson's daughter and is scheduled to be officially released on November 1st, the anniversary of Franz's 100th birthday. An "all-star" group of musicians, many of whom were part of the 95th birthday concert will, perform at the CD release party including Eric Schneider, Judi K, Yves Francois and Billy "Stix" Nicks, with more to be announced.

Tickets for the 6th Annual Franz Jackson Jazz Celebration will be \$20 for adults, \$10 for children ages 12-17 and children under 12 are admitted free. A limited number of tickets for the CD release party will be sold at \$25 per person which will include a free digital download of "Milestone" given the night of the release party. Please visit www.franzjackson.com, or www.facebook.com/franzjacksonjazzcelebration for more information.

Interviews with Michelle Jewell (Franz Jackson's daughter) and/or any participating musicians may be arranged by calling Ms. Jewell at 574-621-0583. ###