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For Immediate Release

US POSTAL SERVICE CELEBRATES BLACK MUSIC MONTH

June 20, 2005 (New York, NY) – In celebration of June’s Black Music Month, the **United States Postal Service** will honor musical legends such as Mahalia Jackson and John Coltrane in a lively reception dedicated to the musicians of the USPS Black Heritage stamp series. The reception will take place **Monday, June 27** at the **Harlem Tea Room** and will highlight the importance of preserving African-American history and culture through stamp collecting. Soul-jazz group the **Fuzz Band** will provide entertainment and **Jennifer DePreist**, the great niece of Black Heritage stamp honoree Marian Anderson, will give a few personal remarks about the legacy of the Black Heritage stamp collection.

WHAT: USPS Black Music Month Celebration

WHERE: Harlem Tea Room, 1793A Madison Avenue (at 118th St.), Harlem, NY; 212-348-3471

WHEN: Monday, June 27, 2005

TIME: 6:00PM – 8:00PM

RSVP: shante@135stagency.com or Saptosa@135stagency.com by June 20.

Stamp images that will be on display include:

Marian Anderson – January 27, 2005

The Marian Anderson commemorative stamp is the 28th in the USPS Black Heritage series. A gifted vocalist, Anderson was one of the greatest classically trained singers of the 20th century and an important figure in the struggle of black Americans for racial equality. Singing a varied repertoire in her rich contralto, Anderson opened doors for other black artists.

John Coltrane - September 16, 1995

John Coltrane is considered to be one of the leading jazz artists from the 1950s and 1960s. Well known for his improvised, free-form solos on the saxophone, he performed with such noted musicians as Miles Davis, Dizzy Gillespie, and Thelonious Monk. In the early 1960s, Coltrane formed his own group which became one of the most innovative and celebrated groups in the history of jazz.

Mahalia Jackson - July 15, 1998

Known as the “Queen of Gospel Music,” Mahalia Jackson started singing in church choirs as a young child. She began recording in her early twenties, and received national recognition by appearing at Carnegie Hall and on “The Ed Sullivan Show.” An active participant in the Civil Rights Movement, she sang at the “March on Washington” in 1963 and at the funeral for Martin Luther King, Jr.

Paul Robeson - January 2004

Paul Robeson was a tireless and uncompromising advocate for civil rights and social justice. At Rutgers University, he was a two-year All-American in football, a valedictorian, and a Phi Beta Kappa. Later, he earned a law degree at Columbia University, but soon turned to singing and acting. He was especially known for his renditions of black spirituals and also his stage role in *Othello*. By the late 1930s, he had become very active and outspoken on behalf of racial justice, social progress, and international peace.

Black Heritage Stamp Series Musical Icons

Artist	Release Date	Artist	Release Date
W.C. Handy	May 17, 1969	Eubie Blake	September 16, 1995
Scott Joplin	June 9, 1983	Erroll Garner	September 16, 1995
James Weldon Johnson	February 2, 1988	Coleman Hawkins	September 16, 1995
Clyde McPhatter	June 16, 1993	James P. Johnson	September 16, 1995
Dinah Washington	June 16, 1993	Charles Mingus	September 16, 1995
Otis Redding	June 16, 1993	Thelonious Monk	September 16, 1995
Nat King Cole	September 1, 1994	Jelly Roll Morton	September 16, 1995
Ethel Waters	September 1, 1994	Charlie Parker	September 16, 1995
Billie Holiday	September 17, 1994	Count Basie	September 11, 1996
Howlin' Wolf	September 17, 1994	Jazz Flourishes	May 28, 1998
Robert Johnson	September 17, 1994	Roberta Martin	July 15, 1998
"MA" Rainey	September 17, 1994	Sister Rosetta Tharpe	July 15, 1998
Jimmy Rushing	September 17, 1994	Clara Ward	July 15, 1998
Bessie Smith	September 17, 1994	Josh White	June 26, 1998
Muddy Waters	September 17, 1994	Leadbelly	June 26, 1998
Louis Armstrong	September 16, 1995		

ABOUT THE U.S. POSTAL SERVICE

Since 1775, the U.S. Postal Service has connected friends, families, neighbors and businesses by mail. An independent federal agency, the Postal Service makes deliveries to more than 142 million addresses every day and is the only service provider to deliver to every address in the nation. The Postal Service receives no taxpayer dollars for routine operations, but derives its operating revenues solely from the sale of postage, products and services. With annual revenues of \$69 billion, it is the world's leading provider of mail and delivery services, offering some of the most affordable postage rates in the world. Moreover, today's postage rates will remain stable until at least 2006. The U.S. Postal Service delivers more than 46 percent of the world's mail volume-some 206 billion letters, advertisements, periodicals and packages a year-and serves seven million customers each day at its 37,000 retail locations nationwide.

ABOUT THE 135TH STREET AGENCY

The 135th Street Agency is a Marketing/PR/Advertising firm based in Harlem and Atlanta. Launched in 2002, the 135th Street Agency bridges the gap between artists/entertainment and Corporate America and translates the message that corporations are trying to get across to the urban business professional/urban youth consumer in a culturally savvy manner. Our combined 20 years of experience/contacts in Music/Entertainment Marketing and Print Media include an eight-year tenure in Def Jam Records' marketing department as well as editorial experience at Seventeen, Rolling Stone, In Style, XXL, Vibe, and Complex. Past and current clients of the 135th Street Agency include the United States Postal Service, Coca-Cola Summerscope, Def Jam Mobile, Howard University's "Manifest" magazine, Hot 97 New York personality "Sunny".

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