



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Jazz Trumpeter Lee Morgan Nominated for Pennsylvania Historical Marker

Fifty years after his death Lee Morgan is recognized as one of the most important musicians in jazz history

PHILADELPHIA (February 18, 2022) — On the eve of the 50th anniversary of the death of Lee Morgan (1938-1972), All That Philly Jazz, in collaboration with Blue Note Records, nominated jazz trumpeter Lee Morgan for a Pennsylvania historical marker. The nomination is supported by Lee's family members, Jules E. Mastbaum Area Vocational Technical High School alumni, business leaders, and Lee Morgan scholars and enthusiasts.

Faye Anderson, director of All That Philly Jazz, said, "[Pennsylvania's historical marker program](#) recognizes people, places and events that have had a measurable impact on their times, and are of statewide or national significance. From collaborating on John Coltrane's and Art Blakey & The Jazz Messengers' classic albums to his genre-bending album *The Sidewinder*, Lee Morgan is among an elite group who shaped the sound of the jazz trumpet. If the nomination is approved, Lee will join Coltrane, Pearl Bailey and Billie Holiday whose historical markers were dedicated in the 1990s."

Vice President of Publicity at Blue Note Records/Capitol Music Group Cem Kurosman said, "Fifty years after his death, Lee Morgan's music remarkably continues to grow in stature. There remains a high level of interest from jazz fans all over the world in Lee's life and music, which has fueled our efforts to reissue his Blue Note catalog so that his music can keep finding new generations of listeners. The expanded box set *The Complete Live at the Lighthouse* was widely acclaimed and sold out shortly after its release in August 2021. A historical marker would be a long overdue public memorial celebrating one of the greatest jazz musicians of all time."

Raymond Darryl Cox, executor of the Estate of Lee Morgan, said, "My mother, Ernestine Morgan Cox, was Lee's older sister. She bought Lee his first trumpet and exposed him to jazz at the Earle Theater. *JazzTimes* named *The Complete Live at the Lighthouse* the number two historical album of 2021. The flugelhorn with which Uncle Lee posed on the album cover is a treasured family heirloom. Uncle Lee lives forever in

our hearts. If the nomination for a Pennsylvania historical marker is approved, Lee Morgan will live forever in public memory.”

Sam Olshin, principal, Atkin Olshin Schade Architects, is a Lee Morgan enthusiast who championed nominating the Philadelphia native for a historical marker. Olshin said, “Lee Morgan came up through the Philadelphia public school system and took advantage of the high quality music program that Mastbaum High School offered. Philadelphia is very fortunate to have helped support and foster Lee’s talent, perseverance, and unique sound.”

Tom Perchard, author of *Lee Morgan: His Life, Music and Culture*, added: “Lee Morgan is commonly recognized as one of the most important musicians in jazz history. His approach to trumpet playing and composition was unique and highly personalized, yet his music has communicated globally from the outset, and 50 years after his death, he is celebrated internationally as one of Philadelphia’s most illustrious citizens.”

Jazz master and trumpeter Cullen Knight met Lee in 1956 as he was entering Mastbaum AVTS and Lee Morgan was graduating from the storied high school. “Lee’s heart and soul went into his music, and that’s what came out,” said Knight. “Although Lee’s life was cut short, he said what he wanted to say with his trumpet and his compositions, and that was plenty.”

###

About All That Philly Jazz

[All That Philly Jazz](#) is a crowdsourced public history project at the intersection of art, public policy and cultural heritage preservation. We are documenting and contextualizing Philadelphia’s golden age of jazz.

Media Contact:

Faye Anderson
Director
Cell: (267) 282-1362
Twitter: @andersonatlarge
Email: andersonatlarge@gmail.com

About Blue Note Records

Founded by Alfred Lion, a German immigrant and passionate jazz fan, [Blue Note Records](#) has gone on to represent “The Finest In Jazz Since 1939,” tracing the history of the music from Hot Jazz, Boogie Woogie, and Swing through Bebop, Hard Bop, Post-Bop, Soul Jazz, Avant-Garde, and Fusion. Relaunched by Bruce Lundvall in 1984, Blue Note Records has remained the leading label dedicated to documenting today’s vibrant and creatively thriving jazz scene under the leadership of President Don Was who took the helm in 2012.

Media Contact:

Cem Kurosman
Vice President, Publicity
Blue Note Records/Capitol Music Group
Email: cem.kurosman@umusic.com