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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

Rodney Whitaker and MSU Jazz Orchestra Inspire Young Musicians of the Ludington Area with “Jazz It Up” Workshop

LUDINGTON, MI (Feb 8, 2011)- On February 19th, Rodney Whitaker and his Michigan State University Jazz Orchestra will visit the Ludington Area Center of the Arts for the 4th annual Mardi Gras themed fundraiser, “Jazz It Up”. Before the evening concert fundraiser, Whitaker and his collegiate team will share their knowledge in a jazz workshop with music students from Ludington, Mason County Central, Shelby, and Pentwater High School.

Rodney Whitaker, conductor of the Jazz Orchestra, is professor of double bass and director of jazz studies at the Michigan State University College of Music. Whitaker is one of the leading performers and teachers of jazz double bass in the United States. The nineteen-piece MSU Jazz Orchestra plays the repertoire of the great jazz masters as well as a wide range of soul, swing, blues, and gospel. The clinic will begin at the Ludington Area Center for the Arts as a full master class and after an hour of playing and open question the MSU band will takes students with like instruments of saxophone, trombone, trumpet, and rhythm section to classrooms for a workshop clinic. In these clinics, students will get hands on experience working with some of the most talented college jazz musicians in the world.

Ludington Public Schools' band director and Ludington Area Arts Council board member, Ted Malt comments, “It’s truly a pleasure to have Professor Whitaker here in Ludington to share his talents both as a world renown bassist but also an educator. Under the direction of Whitaker, the MSU jazz program is leading the way in terms of product. We are so appreciative of the MSU College of Music, Dean James Forger, Professor Whitaker, and the MSU students for dedicating their time to our cause and promoting arts in Ludington.”

Following the student music workshop, the MSU jazz musicians will prepare for their evening fundraiser concert for the Ludington Area Center for the Arts at 7pm. Following will be a Mardi Gras party will proceed. Tickets are \$25 per person and available online at ludingtonartscenter.org as well as at the door.

About the Ludington Area Center for the Arts

The Ludington Area Center for the Arts is a not-for-profit organization dedicated to promoting and supporting the arts in West Michigan. The Center is located at 107 S. Harrison in the historic former home of the United Methodist Church in downtown Ludington. Parking for the Center events is available in the public lot south of the Center at the corner of Harrison and Loomis Streets. For more information about this event and the Ludington Area Center for the Arts please visit www.ludingtonartscenter.org or contact Terry Murphy at 231-690-6058 or terry@ludingtonartscenter.org.

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