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## **Mingus Dynasty to Kick-Off Metro Arts Jazz in July 2010 Series at Prairie Meadows on June 30th**

DES MOINES, IA – Metro Arts Alliance announced today that Prairie Meadows Racetrack and Casino, the presenting sponsor, will present legendary Charles Mingus' Mingus Dynasty. The seven-piece **Mingus Dynasty**, an American jazz ensemble formed in 1979, will bring the soaring melodies and harmonic compositions of contemporary jazz leader Charles Mingus to Prairie Meadows on **Wednesday, June 30 at 6:00 p.m.**

"We are proud to sponsor Metro Arts' Jazz in July Concert Series, and provide funding to bring an internationally acclaimed jazz ensemble such as Mingus Dynasty to central Iowa residents, free of charge," said Julie Stewart, Prairie Meadows' Director of Community Relations. "It's going to be a great concert and we invite everyone to join us for a fabulous evening of jazz."

Charles Mingus, considered to be one of the most important figures in Twentieth Century American music, was a prolific composer, a virtuoso bassist and bandleader. Mingus was born in Arizona, grew up in Watts, California, and settled in New York where he performed with some of the greatest names in jazz, including Lionel Hampton, Louis Armstrong, Charlie Parker, Miles Davis, Bud Powell, Art Tatum and Duke Ellington. Mingus recorded over 100 jazz albums and composed over 300 musical scores, which are held in the U.S. Library of Congress.

"The Mingus Dynasty has the raw spirit and individual expression Mingus would have loved as they interpret his vast and highly personal legacy of composition," said Mingus' wife, Sue Mingus. "We are honored to take part in such a long-running and well-known jazz event, such as Metro Arts Jazz in July."

Mingus Dynasty first appeared in 1979 at Carnegie Hall in New York as part of a two-day tribute to Mingus following his death. Band members include Vincent Herring on alto saxophone, Seamus Blake on tenor saxophone, Jaleel Shaw on saxophone, Alex Sipiagin on trumpet, Ku-umba Frank Lacy on trombone. Hans Glawischnig on bass, David Kikoski on piano and Donald Edwards on drums.

Jazz in July concerts are free thanks to funding from Prairie Meadows Racetrack and Casino, support from the Iowa National Guard, the Village of Ponderosa, Des Moines Area Community College (DMACC), Gateway Market & Café, Amerigem Diamonds & Design, Pioneer Hi-Bred, a DuPont business, EMC Insurance Foundation, City of Clive, Franke, Herr & Associates, A financial advisory practice of Ameriprise Financial Services, Inc., Mid-America Group and Neighborhood Finance Corporation.

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Since 1995, Prairie Meadows has been fulfilling its mission of giving back to the community. To date, Prairie Meadows has given more than \$1 billion through taxes, grants and charitable donations. More than \$459 million has remained right here in our community to promote education, economic development, agriculture, jobs and tourism.

Jazz in July is a signature event of Metro Arts Alliance, a nonprofit organization that engages central lowans in arts opportunities and education in order to advance the creative economy and strengthen the community. To become a sponsor, a volunteer or for more information about Metro Arts Jazz in July, call Sheila Linskens, 515-280-3222 or visit the website at [www.metroarts.org](http://www.metroarts.org)

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