



Media Contacts:
Lauren Beyea or Leah Frelinghuysen
press@fords.org

Ford's Theatre
511 Tenth Street, NW
Washington, DC 20004
www.fords.org

FOR RELEASE
June 6, 2022; Updated June 7, 2022

Ford's Theatre Annual Gala **Honors President Lincoln's Legacy**

The Honorable James E. Clyburn and Clive Davis
Receive the Lincoln Medal

Gala Performances by
Host Sam Palladio, Jared Alexander, Amanda Castro, Deborah Cox,
Naomi Funaki, Nova Y. Payton, Phylicia Rashad,
Allison Russell and the Ford's Ensemble

WASHINGTON, D.C. – Ford's Theatre Society celebrated the legacy of President Abraham Lincoln at its Annual Gala on Sunday evening, June 5, 2022, at Ford's Theatre (511 10th Street NW). For more than 40 years, the Society has hosted this bipartisan event, which provides crucial support to the non-profit's theatrical and educational programs.

"What helps ensure the continued success of Ford's Theatre Society is that Abraham Lincoln's wide-reaching appeal is at its heart," said **Ford's Theatre Director Paul R. Tetreault**. "The gala is a chance to highlight the importance of Lincoln's legacy and, thanks to our gala supporters, we are able to explore that legacy with more than 700,000 visitors in a typical year through performance, history and education programming. This support also enhances our work with the National Park Service, under the leadership of the Department of the Interior, and we are proud that Ford's Theatre is one of the most successful public/private partnerships between NPS and a non-profit in American life today."

The gala performance was attended by numerous dignitaries including: Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi; Senators John Cornyn, John Hickenlooper, Edward Markey, Robert Portman, James Risch; The Honorable Susan E. Rice; Representatives Emanuel Cleaver II, James E.

Clyburn, Debbie Dingell, Edward Markey, Ro Khanna and Michael R. Turner; The Honorable Elaine L. Chao; Ambassador Shaikh Salem Al-Jaber Al-Sabah.

A highlight of the evening was the **presentation of the Lincoln Medal to The Honorable James E. Clyburn**, by Phylicia Rashad, and to **music industry legend Clive Davis**, by Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi. The recipients, through their achievements and personal attributes, exemplify the lasting legacy of Abraham Lincoln.

Performance

The event at historic Ford's Theatre included memorable performances such as "Oh, What a Beautiful Mornin'" from *Oklahoma!* performed by Phylicia Rashad, Nova Y. Payton and the Ford's Ensemble; a dance number by Jared Alexander, Amanda Castro and Naomi Funaki; "Something on My Mind" performed by Sam Palladio; "Nightflyer" performed by Allison Russell; and a medley including "I Will Always Love You" and "I Wanna Dance with Somebody" performed by Deborah Cox and the Ford's Ensemble.

During the performance, Ford's presented a moment reflecting on the lives lost to gun violence. As a site of gun violence, this important moment serves to remind us of our collective ability to affect positive change.

The gala performance was followed by a seated dinner at the National Portrait Gallery and Smithsonian American Art Museum (750 Ninth Street NW).

First Lady Dr. Jill Biden served as the honorary chair of the gala celebration. Honorary co-chairs were Mrs. Rima Al-Sabah, Mrs. Abigail P. Blunt, Hon. Elaine L. Chao, Mrs. Dianne Cleaver, Mrs. Sandy Cornyn, Hon. Deborah I. Dingell, Mrs. Robin Hickenlooper, Mrs. Ritu Ahuja Khanna, Mrs. Frances R. Lindner, Mrs. Marlene Malek, Dr. Susan J. Blumenthal Markey, Mrs. Judy McCarthy, Ms. Catherine Merrill, Mrs. Noémi K. Neidorff, Mrs. Kelley Paul, Mr. Paul Pelosi, Mrs. Vicki Risch and Ms. Iris Weinshall.

The *Ford's Theatre Annual Gala* benefits the Ford's Theatre Society and its programming, including Ford's Theatre theatrical and education initiatives. This event is made possible by the generous support of lead underwriter General Dynamics. Ford's Theatre gratefully acknowledges Ovation as the Red Carpet Sponsor and Marlene A. Malek and the Malek Family Charitable Trust as the 2022 Lincoln Medal Sponsor.

Lincoln Medal

The Lincoln Medal, first bestowed in 1981 to Senator Milton R. Young, is an annual award given by the Ford's Theatre Society to a person or persons who, through their body of work, accomplishments or personal attributes, exemplify the lasting legacy and mettle of character embodied by the most beloved president in our nation's history, President Abraham Lincoln.

About The Honorable James E. Clyburn

The Honorable James E. Clyburn's beginnings in Sumter, South Carolina, as the eldest son of an activist, fundamentalist minister and an independent, civic-minded beautician, grounded him securely in family, faith and public service. In the decades since, he has become a trailblazer and leader, serving as a schoolteacher before moving into elected office and serving in roles including Chairman of the Congressional Black Caucus, Vice Chairman, and later Chairman, of the House Democratic Caucus.

Congressman Clyburn has championed rural and economic development with many of his initiatives becoming law. His 10-20-30 federal funding formula was included in four sections of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act and has been expanded to 18 accounts in recent years. He is the third-ranking Democrat in the United States House of Representatives, and the highest-ranking African-American official in Congress.

His passion for historic preservation and restoration programs has led to advocacy and action, restoring scores of historic buildings and sites on the campuses of historically Black colleges and universities. His legislation created the South Carolina National Heritage Corridor and the Gullah/Geechee Cultural Heritage Corridor, elevated the Congaree National Monument to a National Park, and established the Reconstruction Era National Monument in South Carolina's Lowcountry.

Congressman Clyburn previously served as Majority Whip (2007-2011) and as Assistant Democratic Leader (2011-2019). Clyburn is currently the Majority Whip for the 117th Congress, Chairman of the House Select Subcommittee on the Coronavirus Crisis, and Chairman of the Rural Broadband Task Force and Democratic Faith Working Group.

About Clive Davis

As the record industry's most innovative and influential executive, Clive Davis has had a profound effect on the development and success of pop, rock, R&B, country and hip-hop music, and a celebrated career spanning more than 50 years. Davis played a key role in the careers of countless artists including Janis Joplin; Earth, Wind & Fire; Santana; Bruce Springsteen; Simon & Garfunkel; Barbra Streisand; Miles Davis; Herbie Hancock; Barry Manilow; Patti Smith;

Notorious B.I.G.; Alan Jackson; Brooks & Dunn; The Grateful Dead; Carly Simon; Dionne Warwick; Aretha Franklin; Whitney Houston; Sean “Puffy” Combs; Alicia Keys; Luther Vandross and many others.

He began his career at Columbia Records, where he was named President in 1967. In 1974, Davis founded Arista Records, which expanded to include Arista Nashville in 1988. He continued his exploration of different musical genres with the formation of LaFace Records in 1989, Bad Boy Records in 1994 and J Records in 2000, which quickly emerged as a dominant force in the industry. In 2008, he was appointed Chief Creative Officer for Sony Music Entertainment.

This past summer, Davis co-executive produced the globally televised music event *We Love NYC: The Homecoming Concert* with Live Nation. He’s also co-produced the exciting eight-part series, *GENIUS: ARETHA*, for National Geographic Channel, and been subject of the award-winning documentary film, *Clive Davis: The Soundtrack Of Our Lives*, still on Netflix. His autobiography, *The Soundtrack Of My Life*, was published in 2013. A member of the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame, The Grammy Museum Theatre is named in his honor as well as the Clive Davis Institute for Recorded Music at NYU.

Past recipients of the Lincoln Medal include General Colin L. Powell and Alma J. Powell, political humorist Mark Russell (2019); philanthropist and businesswoman Sheila C. Johnson (2018), golf champion Jack Nicklaus (2018); former NFL player Peyton W. Manning (2017), civil rights activist Diane Nash (2016); Former Secretary of State Dr. Condoleezza Rice (2015); Congressman John Lewis (2007); Congressman John D. Dingell (2014); Holocaust survivor and author Elie Wiesel (2012); human rights activist Archbishop Emeritus Desmond Tutu (2010) and Justice Albie Sachs (2010); filmmaker George Lucas (2009); actors James Earl Jones (2014), Ruby Dee (2008) and Sidney Poitier (2009); Dr. Maya Angelou (2008); singer Aretha Franklin (2009); and Supreme Court Justice Sandra Day O'Connor (2008).

Ford’s Theatre Society

Since reopening in 1968, more than a hundred years after President Abraham Lincoln’s assassination, Ford’s Theatre has explored Lincoln’s legacy and celebrated the American experience through theatre and education. Now under the leadership of Director Paul R. Tetreault, Ford’s Theatre has been recognized for the superior quality of its artistic programming. With works from the Tony-nominated *Come From Away* and the nationally acclaimed *Big River* to the world premieres of *Meet John Doe*, *The Heavens Are Hung In Black*,

Liberty Smith, Necessary Sacrifices, The Widow Lincoln, The Guard and Grace, Ford's Theatre is making its mark on the American theatre landscape. For its accomplishments, the organization was honored in 2008 with the National Medal of Arts. For more information, visit www.fords.org.

Ford's Theatre on Twitter and Instagram: @fordstheatre

Ford's Theatre on Facebook: www.facebook.com/fordstheatre

###