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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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AUGUSTA SYMPHONY PRESENTS TWO DAY RESIDENCY FEATURING WYCLIFFE GORDON & ERIC REED SPONSORED BY GEORGIA COUNCIL FOR THE ARTS

The Augusta Symphony presents jazz trombonist and composer **Wycliffe Gordon**, in a **two-day Residency**, in cooperation with **Davidson Fine Arts School**, and sponsored by **Georgia Council for the Arts**, on **Thursday and Friday, January 17 and 18, 2008**. The Residency includes band clinics & master classes with Richmond County public school band students, culminating in a **free concert Friday afternoon at 2:30**, and including some students who have participated in the workshops. The two-day Residency is a result of a Georgia Council for the Arts announcement and the Symphony's application in early October of a grant initiative entitled "*American Masterpieces: Three Centuries of Artistic Genius – Georgia chamber & jazz music.*"

The Symphony was notified in late December that its application was approved for support of the two-day Residency, centered around the Symphony's already-scheduled **Columbia County Music Series concert** on January 19th featuring **Wycliffe Gordon** and **Eric Reed**. Executive Director Sandra Self commented, "*a major objective of the Augusta Symphony is to continually connect with our community—to offer such opportunities as this two-day Residency for area students of music on a continuing basis. This Residency is an extension of the education and outreach programs we already provide, thanks to area foundations, business, and individuals.*"

Area band students have received Wycliffe Gordon sheet music in advance. During the residency band clinic(s) and master classes, they will learn more about Mr. Gordon's original compositions and jazz techniques. Eric Reed, *jazz pianist*, will join Mr. Gordon in the workshops and for the free concert on Friday afternoon. For additional information about the Residency, contact the Symphony's Director of Education & Outreach, Jennifer Witcher, jenniferwitcher@augustasympphony.org or 706.826.4706.

The **two-day Residency precedes the Augusta Symphony's Columbia County Music Series concert featuring Wycliffe Gordon and Eric Reed on Saturday, January 19 at 7:30 p.m.** This concert is the second of the Symphony's eclectic four-concert series at **Jabez Sanford Hardin Performing Arts Center, in Evans, Georgia.**

In a recent communication, Mr. Gordon commented that the January 19th program "will consist of selections from [their – Wycliffe Gordon & Eric Reed] recent recordings: *WE* and *WE2*. The music represents several genres including gospel, jazz, show tunes, and [works] by American composers – Duke Ellington, George Gershwin, Stevie Wonder, Thelonious Monk, Jimmy van Huesen, Tommy Dorsey, and other traditional favorites. Of course, there will also be

original compositions in the mix and will also include *The Lord's Prayer, Amazing Grace, It Don't Mean a Thing, Embraceable You, Nancy (with the Laughing Face), Precious Lord...*

Tickets for the Saturday, January 19th concert at 7:30 p.m. are \$30 per person and can be purchased online at www.augustasympphony.org or by calling 706.826.4705. All full-time students and military personnel with valid I.D. may purchase \$7 tickets (subject to availability) at the door on concert evening.

A native of Waynesboro, Georgia, **Wycliffe Gordon** has been universally hailed by jazz critics for his extraordinary trombone playing. In addition to his impressive performance career, Mr. Gordon is also active as a conductor, composer, arranger, and educator. Gordon tours the world performing hard-swinging, straight-ahead jazz for audiences ranging from heads of state to elementary school students. This past summer, in recognition of his endeavors and accomplishments, the city of Augusta, Georgia, under the leadership of Mayor Deke Copenhaver, declared August 17, 2007 "Wycliffe Gordon Day."

A former member of the Wynton Marsalis Septet, The Lincoln Center Jazz Orchestra, and The Gully Low Jazz Band, Mr. Gordon now tours with the Wycliffe Gordon Quartet at venues throughout the world. A gifted composer and arranger, Mr. Gordon has been commissioned to compose film scores as well as a musical tribute to Muhammad Ali. His compositions have been performed by The Lincoln Center Jazz Orchestra, The Wynton Marsalis Septet, The Wycliffe Gordon Quartet, and numerous other ensembles. Television appearances include the Grammy Awards, the PBS special documentary "Swingin' with the Duke" and two "Live from Lincoln Center" broadcasts with the Lincoln Center Jazz Orchestra.

Currently, Mr. Gordon serves on the faculty of the Jazz Studies Program at The Juilliard School, a position he has held since the founding of the program. As the youngest member of the U.S. Statesmen of Jazz, Mr. Gordon also serves as a musical ambassador for the U.S. State Department. **Visit <http://www.wycliffegordon.com> for more information about Wycliffe Gordon.**

Eric Reed brings hard-driving swing and daring expression to today's contemporary piano scene. Born in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, Mr. Reed began playing the piano at the age of two, beginning formal instruction at the age of five. After moving to Los Angeles he discovered the works of famous jazz pianists including Ahmad Jamal, Erroll Garner, Oscar Peterson, and McCoy Tyner. At the age of 18, Mr. Reed began touring with his own ensembles and performing with the Wynton Marsalis Septet and The Lincoln Center Jazz Orchestra. In 2005, Mr. Reed formed a quartet with Willie Jones III, Gerald Cannon, and Stacy Dillard. Mr. Reed's latest album, "Here", was released in May 2006. **For more information about pianist Eric Reed, visit <http://www.ericreed.net>.**

For more information about the Augusta Symphony, visit www.augustasympphony.org, call 706.826.4705, fax 706.826.4735 or email marketing@augustasympphony.org. Located on the second floor of Sacred Heart Cultural Center, the Symphony office is open Monday through Friday, from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

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