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Photos available on request

LEGENDARY JAZZ PIANIST CEDAR WALTON PERFORMS AT WESLEYAN

SEMINAL COMPOSER, PERFORMER AND FORMER MEMBER OF ART BLAKEY'S JAZZ
MESSENGERS BRINGS HIS TRIO TO MIDDLETOWN.

Middletown, Conn., April 5, 2007—Legendary pianist, composer and bandleader Cedar Walton brings his trio to Wesleyan University's Crowell Concert Hall. Having performed and recorded with such artists as John Coltrane, Sonny Rollins and Art Blakey's Jazz Messengers, Walton has earned a reputation as one of the most influential pianists in the history of jazz. Joining Mr. Walton on stage will be bassist David Williams and drummer Yoron Israel. The Wesleyan Jazz Orchestra begins the concert, performing a short set of Walton's compositions. The performance takes place Saturday, April 28 at 8pm in Crowell Concert Hall on the Wesleyan campus. General admission is \$12 and \$10 for seniors and students. For more information and tickets, call 860-685-3355 or visit www.wesleyan.edu/cfa.

For over 25 years, pianist **Cedar Walton** has enjoyed an uptempo career, which never seems to slow down. Maintaining a non-stop itinerary, Walton has accompanied a litany of jazz greats while also fronting his own successful groups. Born January 17, 1934 in Dallas, Texas, Walton set his sights on a career in music at an early age. An after-hours gig at the Denver Club in Colorado introduced him to notable musicians like Charlie Parker, Dizzy Gillespie and John Coltrane, who would sit in with Walton's group when they passed through town.

From there, Walton ventured to New York and began to work locally with Lou Donaldson, Gigi Gryce, Sonny Rollins and Kenny Dorham before landing his first touring job with J.J. Johnson. Soon after, the pianist made his recording debut backing Kenny Dorham. He also made two records with J. .J. Johnson's group on Columbia Records before joining the Art Farmer/Benny Golson Jazztet, a group he toured and recorded with for two years. Walton's next major musical association was with Art Blakey and the Jazz Messengers. During his three years tenure with Blakey, Walton stepped forward as a composer, contributing originals like "Mosaic" and "The Promised Land" to the group's recordings for the Blue Note and Riverside labels.

Today, Walton is considered to be a living legend of jazz. His original compositions like "Bolivia," "Clockwise" and "Firm Roots" are frequently recorded by other musicians, and have become part of the standard jazz repertoire. His playing regularly receives praise from critics, fellow jazz musicians and audiences around the world.

The Center for the Arts (www.wesleyan.edu/cfa) is an 11-building complex on the Wesleyan campus that houses the departments of art and art history, music, theater and dance, and also film studies classes and activities. It serves as a cultural center for the region, the state and New England. The CFA includes the 400-seat Theater, the 260-seat Cinema, the World Music Hall (a non-Western performance space), the 414-seat Crowell Concert Hall and the Ezra and Cecile Zilkha Gallery.

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