

MAYORAL PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, Jimmy and Jeannie Cheatham graced the Greater Madison community with their presence during the period 1972-1977; and

WHEREAS, during their years in Madison, Jimmy Cheatham led and greatly strengthened the jazz studies program at UW-Madison as Professor of Music and Jeannie Cheatham taught music and movement to preschoolers as a Visiting Professor with the late Ruth Harris; and

WHEREAS, Jimmy and Jeannie Cheatham were leaders in creating a vital jazz scene in Madison in the mid-1970s by bringing in world-class performers like the Count Basie and Thad Jones-Mel Lewis Orchestras, providing opportunities for UW jazz students to perform with professional musicians in local commercial venues, performing extensively around the city and region with their own outstanding band, and by offering our community free public performances by the UW's Experimental Improvisational Black Music Ensemble that Professor Jimmy founded and directed; and

WHEREAS, Jimmy Cheatham performed with many of the great figures in jazz history including Duke Ellington, Count Basie, Lionel Hampton and Ornette Coleman; and Jeannie Cheatham performed with the likes of Cab Calloway, Dinah Washington and Big Mama Thornton, was a guest on Marian McPartland's award-winning "Piano Jazz" program on NPR, and performed at the Mary Lou Williams Women in Jazz Festival at the Kennedy Center in Washington, DC; and

WHEREAS, Greater Madison is in the midst of a yearlong series of concerts and educational programs celebrating the centennial year of legendary jazz pianist, composer and arranger Mary Lou Williams as the result of an invitation from the Mary Lou Williams Foundation in memory of Ms. Williams' 1976 residency at the UW-Madison; and

WHEREAS, Mary Lou Williams' residency included master classes for UW students and public events that included Ms. Williams' "History of Jazz" program and performance of her signature sacred work, "Mary Lou's Mass;" and

WHEREAS, Jeannie Cheatham will be returning to Madison for the first time in 33 years for Madison's Mary Lou Williams Fall Festival Weekend; and

WHEREAS, the UW Afro-American Studies Department established the Jimmy Cheatham Black Music Education Fund at the UW Foundation after Professor Cheatham's death in 2007 at age 82; and

WHEREAS, the 4th annual Jimmy Cheatham Memorial Jazz Jam Session will be held the evening of Saturday, October 2, 2010, at the Inn on the Park, as a reunion of Professor Cheatham's former UW students and to encourage gifts to the Cheatham Black Music Education Fund;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Mayor of the City of Madison, Wisconsin, welcomes Ms. Cheatham back to Madison to receive our thanks for her contributions – and those of her late husband Jimmy – to the cultural life of our community.



Mayor David S. Cieslewicz
Signed and sealed this 1st day of October 2010
at City Hall.

