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CONTACT: Maria Morreale, Marketing Director
716.270.8229 mmoreale@albrightknox.org

AN EVENING WITH MIKE JONES to Launch the 11th Season of the ART OF JAZZ SERIES at the Albright-Knox Art Gallery

Buffalo, NY — Pianist and Buffalo native **Mike Jones** will give his first hometown performance in nearly a decade as part of the 2009–2010 Hunt Real Estate and David Kennedy *Art of Jazz Series* at the Albright-Knox Art Gallery on Saturday, October 24, 2009, at 8 pm in the Gallery Auditorium. A pre-concert conversation, *Roll 'Em Pete: The Life and Music of Pete Johnson* begins at 7 pm. Individual concert tickets are \$30 and season tickets, for all six concerts, are available at a 10% discount for the package price of \$162. Tickets can be purchased at the Albright-Knox Art Gallery admissions desk or by phone at 716.270.8292.

Oft-compared to jazz legends Art Tatum and Oscar Peterson, Mike Jones has been heralded as “the great living Mainstream Monster of jazz piano” (Jeff Simon, *The Buffalo News*), and has been noted as possessing “the most remarkable pure technique of any piano player working in jazz today” (Neil Tesser). Born and raised in South Buffalo, Jones attended the Berklee School of Music, becoming a disciple of the late Dave McKenna, the master of two-handed solo jazz piano. Since the 1980s, Jones has performed around the world and released a number of highly acclaimed albums for the Chiarascuro label, including 1994’s *Runnin’ Wild*, recorded live at the Tralf in downtown Buffalo. Since 2002 he has been appearing nightly in Las Vegas with master magicians Penn and Teller, performing for millions while often accompanied by ardent fan Penn Jillette on bass. While Jones’s commitment has limited his performances outside Vegas to only a handful each year, Series Producer Bruce Eaton explains, “We are thrilled that we were able to arrange for Mike to return to Buffalo for this rare appearance. It’s going to be a really memorable event.”

For a full biography and photos, visit www.jonesjazz.com.

The Hunt Real Estate and David Kennedy *Art of Jazz Series* is produced by Bruce Eaton and organized by the Albright-Knox Art Gallery. It is supported, in part, by generous grants from Hunt Real Estate and David Kennedy. Concerts usually sell out in advance of each performance, so please order tickets early to avoid disappointment. The Gallery restaurant, **muse**, will be open for dinner before the performance. Reservations are strongly recommended. Please call 716.270.8223.

The Albright-Knox Art Gallery is recognized as one of the world’s leading collections of modern and contemporary art. With more than 6,500 works in its collection and a dynamic series of exhibitions and public programs, the AKAG continues to grow and fulfill its mission to acquire, exhibit, and preserve modern and contemporary art in an enriching, dynamic, and vibrant environment.

Hours: Thursday 10 am to 5 pm; Friday 10 am to 10 pm; Saturday and Sunday 10 am to 5 pm; closed Mondays, Tuesdays, and Wednesdays. Admission: \$12 for adults; \$8 for seniors and students; free for Gallery Members and children 12 and under. On Fridays from 3 to 10 pm, *Gusto at the Gallery* features a variety of free programs for visitors of all ages. For additional information, visit www.albrightknox.org.