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## The Manhattan Transfer Prizewinner of the 2010 Ella Fitzgerald Award

**Montreal, Friday, June 26, 2010** — The **Festival International de Jazz de Montréal** is proud to announce the awarding of the 2010 **Ella Fitzgerald Award** to the vocal ensemble **The Manhattan Transfer** for their extraordinary contribution to contemporary jazz. They will be given the award **today** by **André Ménard**, **artistic director and co-founder of the Festival**, on stage at their concert **tonight, June 26, at 6 p.m.** at the **Théâtre Maisonneuve** at **Place des Arts** as part of the *En voix Rio Tinto Alcan* series.

The Manhattan Transfer is the 12th artist to receive the Ella Fitzgerald Award, established in 1999 for our 20th anniversary and conferred in recognition of the versatility, improvisational originality and quality of repertoire of a jazz singer renowned on the international scene.

Icons of American pop jazz singing for three decades, The Manhattan Transfer is an atypical vocal ensemble, with a panache synonymous with '80s jazz and a sound so entwined with our culture that you can find yourself humming along to *Birdland*, *Boy from New York City* and *Route 66* without even realizing it... Their musical adventure has endured 40 years, has racked up almost as many Grammys as Michael Jackson, and it all started... inside a taxi! From the smoky jazz clubs of Greenwich Village to international renown, The Manhattan Transfer has bridged eras and styles—they've been associated with jazz, pop, disco and even children's music—while always maintaining a distinctive sound rooted in doo-wop. Two years after *The Definitive Pop Collection*, a double album featuring their greatest hits, the famed quartet returns with a new repertoire, the songs of jazz icon Chick Corea, retaining all the magic, charm, verve and complexity of the music and offering ample evidence that, after 37 years, they remain the equal of their extraordinary renown.

In accepting the prize, The Manhattan Transfer will be following previous Ella Fitzgerald prizewinners John Pizzarelli (2009), Aretha Franklin (2008), Harry Connick, Jr., (2007), Etta James (2006), Al Jarreau (2005) Tony Bennett (2004), Bobby McFerrin (2003), Dianne Reeves (2002), Diana Krall (2001), Dee Dee Bridgewater (2000) and Diane Schuur (1999).

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