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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**Peabody Alumnus Awadagin Pratt to Receive
Johns Hopkins University Distinguished Alumnus Award**

January 30, 2008, Baltimore, MD: The Johns Hopkins University Alumni Association announces that Peabody alumnus **Awadagin Pratt** will receive the 2008 Distinguished Alumnus Award. Peabody Director Jeffrey Sharkey will present the award at a recital being performed by Pratt on Peabody's Sylvia Adalman Artist Recital Series on Friday, February 1 at 8:00 pm in Miriam A. Friedberg Hall. The prestigious award honors alumni who have typified the Johns Hopkins tradition of excellence and brought credit to the University by their personal accomplishment, professional achievement, or humanitarian service.

Director Sharkey nominated Pratt for the award noting his exemplary achievements as an artist and teacher. "We are pleased and proud to welcome Awadagin Pratt back to Peabody, particularly as we celebrate Peabody's 150th anniversary. Awadagin is an outstanding artist, teacher, and advocate for music – and a fine representative of the legacy of Peabody and Johns Hopkins," Sharkey said. Pratt was the first student in Peabody's history to receive diplomas in three performance areas – piano '89, violin '89, and conducting '92. His career was launched by wins at the 1992 Naumburg International Piano Competition and as a recipient of the 1994 Avery Fisher Career Grant.

Pratt has played numerous recitals throughout the U.S. including performances in New York at Lincoln Center, Washington, D.C. at the Kennedy Center, Los Angeles at the Dorothy Chandler Pavilion and Chicago at Orchestra Hall. His many orchestral performances include appearances with the New York Philharmonic, and the Pittsburgh, St. Louis, National, Detroit, and New Jersey symphonies. Major summer festival engagements include Ravinia, Wolftrap, and Aspen, the Hollywood Bowl and the Mostly Mozart Festival in Tokyo. Pratt is also the artistic director of the Next Generation Festival, a two-week chamber music festival in Lancaster, PA. He tours with the Dedalus String Quartet and appears with fellow Peabody alumnus Zuill Bailey, cello, in duo recitals throughout the US. Internationally, he has toured Japan four times and performed in Germany, Italy, Switzerland, Poland, Israel, and South Africa.

Pratt has been the subject of numerous articles in the national press, including *Newsweek*, *People Magazine*, *USA Weekend*, *New York Newsday*, *Emerge*, and *Mirabella*. He was named one of the 50 Leaders of Tomorrow in *Ebony Magazine's* special 50th anniversary issue and has been featured on National Public Radio's *Performance Today*, *St. Paul Sunday Morning*, and *Weekend Edition*. On television, Pratt has performed on the *Today Show*, *Good Morning America*, and *Sesame Street*, and been profiled on *CBS Sunday Morning*. He also performed twice at the White House at the invitation of President and Mrs. Clinton.

In 1993, Pratt signed an exclusive recording contract with Angel/EMI. His debut album, *A Long Way From Normal*, was released in 1994. Subsequent recital discs include an all-Beethoven Sonata CD, *Live from South Africa and Transformations*. His most recent Angel/EMI recording is an all-Bach disc with the St. Lawrence String Quartet.

Pratt is currently an associate professor of piano and artist in residence at the College Conservatory of Music at the University of Cincinnati.

For digital images, please contact Margaret Bell at m.bell@jhu.edu. For updated information, visit www.peabody.jhu.edu/releases.

About the Peabody Institute of the Johns Hopkins University

Located in the heart of Baltimore's Mount Vernon Cultural District, the Peabody Institute was founded in 1857 as America's first academy of music by philanthropist George Peabody. Today, Peabody boasts a preeminent faculty, a nurturing, collaborative learning environment, and the academic resources of one of the nation's leading universities, Johns Hopkins. Through its degree granting Conservatory and its community-based Preparatory music and dance school, Peabody trains musicians and dancers of every age and at every level, from small children to seasoned professionals, from dedicated amateurs to winners of international competitions. Each year, Peabody stages more than 150 major concerts and performances, ranging from classical to contemporary to jazz, many of them free — a testament to the vision of George Peabody. This season, Peabody celebrates its 150th Anniversary, solidifying its role as one of the nation's leading sources of professionally trained musicians.