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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**Peabody Faculty Artist Larry Williams
Endorsed as a Yamaha Performing Artist**

May 6, 2008, Baltimore, MD: The Peabody Institute of the Johns Hopkins University is pleased to announce that Peabody alumnus and faculty artist Larry Williams, horn, has been endorsed as a Yamaha Performing Artist by The Yamaha Corporation of America. Williams joins a group of elite professional musicians chosen for this distinction and will immediately begin representing the corporation nationally through performances and clinics. As a Yamaha Performing Artist, he will be featured on the Yamaha Global Artist website and will join a worldwide network of staff and artists dedicated to quality in all aspects of music. Williams performs exclusively on Yamaha Custom Horns.

Williams chairs the Preparatory Brass and Winds department, directs the Adult and Continuing Education program, and coaches chamber music for the Peabody Conservatory. He has distinguished himself as a multifaceted musician. The late Philip Farkas, former Principal horn of the Chicago Symphony and master teacher, described him as “an outstanding artist-soloist with fine tone, excellent intonation, superb accuracy, and superior musicianship.” *Ebony* magazine listed Williams as one of the “50 Leaders of Tomorrow” in 1995 and the *Maine Sunday Telegram* described Larry as “a phenomenally good horn player, with the brilliance for solo work and the ear to blend perfectly with a string quartet that has been playing together for years.”

Williams is currently a member of the Lyric Brass Quintet and Rodney Mack Philadelphia Big Brass and serves as principal horn of the Soulful Symphony, Sphinx Symphony in Detroit, and Westminster Symphony Orchestras. Williams formerly served as principal horn of the New World Symphony Orchestra under the direction of Michael Tilson Thomas, and he has performed with the Baltimore, Pittsburgh, and San Francisco Symphony Orchestras. As a soloist, he has performed with orchestras and ensembles throughout the U.S. including the world premiere of “*The Black Forest*” *Concerto for Horn and Orchestra* by composer James Schroeder. His wide range of musical styles includes solo and chamber

repertoire, jazz, pop, contemporary, gospel, film, and commercial music. Williams has toured and performed with jazz and popular music greats Frank Sinatra, Ray Charles, Gloria Estefan, and Arturo Sandoval.

His honors and awards include King/Parks/Chavez Distinguished Visiting Professor at the University of Michigan School of Music in 2008 and 2006, First Prize in the Catch the Rising Stars Solo Recital Competition in 2000 and Second Prize in Peabody's Yale Gordon Concerto Competition in 1989. Williams received his bachelor's degree and Graduate Performance Diploma in French horn from Peabody.

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.