



Terrance L. Patterson, Founder of Ritz Chamber Players, Honored with Ann McDonald Baker Award

His vision for African-American Chamber Music exemplifies the goals of Art Ventures

JACKSONVILLE, Florida – November 17, 2015 — The Community Foundation for Northeast Florida proudly bestowed its first ever Ann McDonald Baker Art Ventures Award on Terrance L. Patterson, founder and artistic director of the Ritz Chamber Players, at a private reception last night. The award, which includes a \$10,000 unrestricted grant, recognizes an artist whose work brings distinction to Northeast Florida, and is named for the late Ann McDonald Baker, whose leadership helped create and nurture such vital cultural gems such as The Community Foundation’s Art Ventures Fund, the Arts Assembly (now the Cultural Council) and Douglas Anderson School of the Arts, among others.

The inaugural Ann McDonald Baker Art Ventures Award recipient, Terrance Patterson, is a distinguished clarinetist who has performed all over the world. In 2002, he created the Ritz Chamber Players, the nation’s only concert series featuring an all African-American chamber music group. He has developed his ensemble to national and international acclaim, while remaining resolutely committed to his hometown. Locally, he provides educational opportunities for children, including concerts and ‘informances’ designed to introduce children to chamber music and classical music composers. He also engages seniors, including concerts at Cypress Village and Vicar's Landing. As one of his nominators noted, he could locate this highly praised group anywhere, but he has chosen to remain in Jacksonville, further enriching the community that gave rise to it.

“The Ann McDonald Baker Art Ventures Award recognizes Terrance Patterson’s exceptional talent, but also applauds his commitment to sharing his work with the Northeast Florida community,” noted Nina Waters, president of The Community Foundation for Northeast Florida. “Thanks to his determination, we have the gift of the Ritz Chamber Players to uplift and enrich us, and with the generous support of Ann Baker’s family, we have an opportunity to acknowledge this extraordinary effort.

“Like Terrance, Ann Baker dreamed of a vibrant local arts community where talented individuals could thrive and share their talents with their fellow citizens,” Waters continued. “Truly, we are indebted to Ann for her leadership, and believe Terrance and the Ritz Chamber Players embody the heart of what she envisioned, making this award so meaningful for all who cherish her memory and her legacy.”

The selection process for the Ann McDonald Baker Art Ventures Award included a knowledgeable, anonymous panel of advisors who put forward a short list of finalists after considering a wide range of deserving artists in all disciplines throughout the year. A Selection Committee made up of a member of the Baker family, a Trustee of The Community Foundation for Northeast Florida, a representative from the advisory panel and The Community Foundation president reviewed the finalists and named the winner.

Art Ventures

For 25 years, The Community Foundation for Northeast Florida has invested in the local cultural community as part of an exceptional initiative known as Art Ventures. In 1989, the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) chose Jacksonville to receive \$50,000/year for four years, provided that The Community Foundation and (at the time) The Arts Assembly work together to raise \$100,000/year in unrestricted gifts over the same period. The challenge was a success, and the first grants were made in



1990. Art Ventures provides support for the more fragile part of the arts community—emerging individual artists and small arts organizations—and it has provided more than \$1 million in grants to individuals and small arts organizations since its inception. In 2015, The Community Foundation created the Ann McDonald Baker Art Ventures Award to honor the late Ann Baker, who led the initial fundraising with Courtenay Wilson.

The 2015 Art Ventures Individual Artist recipients will be featured in an exhibit at the UNF Gallery at MOCA, Museum of Contemporary Art/Jacksonville, from December 2, 2015 – January 17, 2016.

About The Community Foundation for Northeast Florida

The Community Foundation for Northeast Florida (www.jaxcf.org), Florida's oldest and largest community foundation, works to stimulate philanthropy to build a better community. The Foundation helps donors invest their philanthropic gifts wisely, helps nonprofits serve the region effectively, and helps people come together to make the community a better place. Now in its 51st year, the Foundation has assets of more than \$313 million and has made grants in excess of \$332 million since 1964.

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Contact:

The Community Foundation for Northeast Florida
Susan Datz Edelman
VP, Strategic Communications
904-356-4483
sedelman@jaxcf.org