

OBERLIN

COLLEGE & CONSERVATORY

Office of Conservatory Communications

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MEDIA ADVISORY

Stevie Wonder, Bill and Camille Cosby Are Among Those Participating in the Grand Opening Celebration and Dedication of the Litoff Building, The Oberlin Conservatory of Music's New Home for Jazz Studies

Editors Please Note: Effective April 22, 2010, the Litoff Building was renamed.

Oberlin's new home for jazz studies, music history, and music theory is now the Bertram and Judith Kohl Building.

OBERLIN, OHIO (March 1, 2010) —

- WHAT:** Two-day celebration marking the grand opening of the Litoff Building, with events that include appearances by Stevie Wonder, Bill Cosby, and many Oberlin Jazz Studies alumni: concerts, jazz films, a panel discussion, workshops, and an honorary degree ceremony.
- WHEN:** Friday, April 30 and Saturday, May 1, 2010
- WHY:** Jazz is a vital part of Stevie Wonder's musical soul, and the premier jazz education program at the Oberlin Conservatory of Music has captured his attention. The singer-songwriter will headline a concert celebrating the grand opening of the Litoff Building and the achievements of Oberlin's legendary jazz studies program. Stevie Wonder will also receive an honorary degree, as will Drs. Bill and Camille Cosby, who are widely respected for their philanthropy and activism in support of education. Bill Cosby will also present "An Evening with Bill Cosby."
- WHERE:** The Oberlin Conservatory of Music
77 West College Street
Oberlin, OH 44074
And other venues on the Oberlin College campus

Background: The Litoff Building

The Litoff Building, designed by the architectural firm Westlake Reed Leskosky, is the innovative home for the Oberlin Conservatory of Music's acclaimed Department of Jazz Studies and highly respected academic programs in music history and music theory. It promotes green building practices and sustainable strategies and planning opportunities. Its design intention is to achieve the first Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED®) Gold rating for a facility exclusively dedicated to music. Oberlin's commitment to

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environmental sustainability is reflected in the building's award-winning architectural design. The Litoff Building is a crucible for Oberlin's innovative curriculum and extensive intellectual resources—which includes gifted and dedicated Grammy Award-winning faculty members, the largest privately held collection of jazz recordings and ephemera in the U.S., and a robust bank of innovation and creativity.

On the Record: Dean of the Oberlin Conservatory of Music David Stull

“The Litoff Building will be the premier facility of its kind anywhere in the world. It is brilliantly conceived to emulate who we are and what we stand for. It is about bringing us together, pursuing great art, fostering harmony within our community, and reminding all of us of the imperative need to steward our environment. It will constantly inspire us in our mission to seek perfection while achieving excellence. It is highly innovative in both form and function, which is emblematic of the conservatory's approach to all of its endeavors.”

Background: The Oberlin Conservatory of Music

Awarded the 2009 National Medal of Arts by President Barack Obama, the Oberlin Conservatory of Music is renowned internationally as a professional music school of the highest caliber. Praised as a “national treasure” by the Washington Post, the conservatory, founded in 1865 and situated amid the intellectual vitality of Oberlin College since 1867, is the oldest continuously operating conservatory in the United States. Oberlin's alumni enjoy illustrious careers in all aspects of the music world. They have achieved prominence as solo performers; chamber, orchestral, and jazz musicians; composers; conductors; and music educators, scholars, and administrators. Ranked consistently among the nation's top liberal arts schools, Oberlin College is committed to rigorous academics, artistic and musical excellence, and social justice. Founded in 1833, Oberlin was the first institution of higher education in America to adopt a policy to admit students of color (1835) and the first college to award bachelor's degrees to women (1841) in a coeducational program. Oberlin's distinct history of challenging intellectual and social conventions shapes the student experience today, which fosters strong bonds among a diverse community of bright and talented students from around the world. Oberlin's combination of a leading liberal arts college and a world-class music conservatory creates an unparalleled learning environment. For more information visit www.oberlin.edu.

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