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CINTAS FOUNDATION PRESENTS THE 2006 WILLIAM B. WARREN LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD IN MUSIC COMPOSITION TO CUBAN PIANIST BEBO VALDÉS

Miami-(October 19, 2006) The Cintas Foundation www.cintasfoundation.org announced that it has presented the *2006 William B. Warren Lifetime Achievement Award in Music Composition* to Cuban pianist and composer Bebo Valdés. The award is named after Cintas Foundation Chairman William B. Warren, who has led the foundation for the last 20 years as its second president.

Mr. Warren and fellow Board members were on hand to present the award during a surprise ceremony at the **Bebo de Cuba Concert** at the Jackie Gleason Theater in Miami Beach.

Bebo Valdés, one of the most storied musicians of Cuba, started playing the piano at seven years of age. He is now 87. Valdés studied classical music and was influenced by the rumba and the music of American jazz greats Jelly Roll Morton, Tommy Dorsey and Dizzy Gillespie. Valdés became the principal pianist and arranger for Havana's Tropicana night club. He left Cuba after Communism and established himself in Stockholm, where he played as a lounge pianist. In 1994, Valdés released a highly acclaimed CD, **Bebo Rides Again,** and has been continuously working on new projects since then. In the past two years, he has won two Latin Grammys and a Grammy; his latest CD has been nominated for another Grammy.

In addition to the Lifetime Achievement Award, Cintas president Hortensia Sampedro announced the establishment of an annual award for aspiring Cuban composers. The Brandon Fradd Fellowship in Music Composition was endowed with a $400,000 grant from Brandon Fradd, managing director of Apollo Medical Partners. "With this generous donation, Mr. Fradd has made it possible for the Cintas Foundation to give an annual fellowship to a Cuban composer and thus support the rich heritage of Cuban music for the enjoyment of all," Sampedro said.

The Cintas Foundation was established with funds from the estate of the late Oscar B. Cintas (b. Sagua La Grande, Cuba, 1887 – d. New York City, 1957), a prominent industrialist and patron of the arts. Since 1963, the Cintas Foundation has awarded more than 300 fellowships to artists of Cuban lineage who reside outside of Cuba. Past music fellows have included Sergio Barroso, Mario Bauza (known as the father of AfroCuban jazz), José Bernardo, Aldo Rafael Forte, Orlando Jacinto Garcia, Tania León and Julián Orbón, among many others.

The Cintas Foundation is headquartered in New York City at Dewey Ballantine, LLP 1301 Avenue of the Americas, Suite 3309, New York, NY 10019-6092. The Cintas Fellowship Selection Program is jointly administered by the Cintas Foundation and the Frost Art Museum at Florida International University. Further information on applying for the Cintas Foundation Brandon Fradd Fellowship in Music Composition may be found at the Cintas Foundation web site at www.cintasfoundation.org

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William B. Warren was born in Boston in 1934 and was raised in New York City and Falmouth Foreside, Maine. He attended Buckley School in New York and Groton. He received his A.B. m.c.l. and L.L.B.c.l. from Harvard College and Law School in 1956 and 1959, respectively. Since graduation from law school, he has specialized in trusts and estates and tax law at Dewey Ballantine in New York City, where he became the senior trusts and estates partner. He is counsel to the firm. He has lectured on estate planning subjects for the Practicing Law Institute, the A.L.I./ABA and the N.Y.U. Tax Institute. He is a past regent of the American College of Trust and Estates Counsel, served on the executive committee of the International Academy of Trust and Estates Law, and served as chairman of the tax committee of the Trust & Estates Law Section of the New York State Bar Association.

As a lawyer, he has been involved with Cintas estate and Foundation matters since 1959, and served as president until recently, when he became Chairman. He is also a Trustee of the Alice E. and Arthur F. Adams Foundation of Miami. He is chairman of the Institute for Schools of the Future, past president of the Grolier Club of New York City, vice chairman of the Academy of American Poets and a board member of the John Carter Brown Library in Providence, R.I. He is a member of the Bankers and Lawyers Advisory Committee to the New York Philharmonic, an advisory director of the Metropolitan Opera Association and was a member of the Council of the Fellows of the J. Pierpont Morgan Library. He is married to the former Arete Swartz, who is an art and architectural historian and former museum and foundation administrator. He has two children, John Coolidge Warren of Southboro, Mass., and Sarah Warren of Jefferson, N.H.

The Cintas Fellowship Program is administered by the Cintas Foundation Board and the Cintas Fellowship Program at The Patricia & Phillip Frost Art Museum at Florida International University. For more information or images contact 305.348.3689 or Kaufmann@fiu.edu.

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