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Cintas Foundation Program at FIU Announces 2008 Competition for Coveted Music Fellowship *Submissions Must be Received by January 14 Deadline*

Miami - (December 4, 2007)- The Cintas Foundation and The Frost Art Museum at FIU today announced the start of the annual competition for the 2008 Brandon Fradd Fellowship in Music Composition administered by the Cintas Foundation and the Cintas Fellowship Program at The Frost. The only one of its kind in the nation, the program has honored some of world's most talented Cuban musicians.

Past music fellows include Sergio Barroso, Mario Bauza (known as the father of Afro-Cuban jazz), José Bernardo, Aldo Rafael Forte, Julián Orbon, Tania León and Orlando Jacinto García. This year, the first William B. Warren Lifetime Achievement Award was given to Bebo Valdes. The Cintas Foundation awards fellowships annually to creative artists of Cuban lineage who are currently residing outside of Cuba.

“For more than 40 years, the Cintas Foundation has helped great artists pursue their craft and share it with the world. We are proud to continue that tradition,” said Hortensia E. Sampedro, president of the Cintas Foundation’s board of directors.

Applicants for the music fellowship must submit original musical compositions and recordings of their work by January 14, 2008. Cintas fellows are awarded \$15,000 and the opportunity to pursue the music project outlined in their applications. Since it was established in 1963, the Cintas Fellowship Program has honored more than 300 artists. FIU and the Cintas Foundation Board have been administering the awards program since 2005.

The Cintas Fellowship Program encourages creative development in architecture, literature, music composition and the visual arts, and awards annual fellowships in creative writing and visual arts as well. The foundation was established with funds from the estate of Oscar B. Cintas (1887-1957), former Cuban ambassador to the United States, a prominent industrialist and patron of the arts.

Application forms and competition requirements are available online at www.cintasfoundation.org. or by contacting Ingrid LaFleur Rogers, Cintas Fellows Collection Manager, at ingrid.rogers@fiu.edu.

