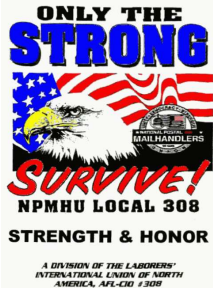




National Postal Mail Handlers Union

THE BREAKDOWN



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THE FIRST LADY OF SONG

The Postal Service will honor Ella Fitzgerald as the 30th inductee into its Black Heritage stamp series January 11 in New York City. Fitzgerald was widely known as “The First Lady of Song.” Her extraordinary vocal range and flexibility, combined with her gift for pitch, rhythmic sense and flawless diction made her a favorite of fans, songwriters and other singers. The stamp image is a portrait based on a photograph taken around 1956 that captures the joy and excitement that Fitzgerald brought to music. The Postal Service began issuing its popular Black Heritage stamp series in 1978 with a stamp honoring Harriet Tubman. Ella Fitzgerald joins a long list of legendary African-American leaders, inventors, educators, scientists, entrepreneurs, entertainers and athletes — including Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., Thurgood Marshall, Marian Anderson, Malcolm X and Madam C.J. Walker.

Through her music, jazz singer Ella Fitzgerald gave her heart and soul to the world. Yesterday, the world gave a little something back. Fitzgerald became the 30th Black Heritage stamp series honoree during a first-day-of-issue ceremony at Jazz at Lincoln Center, New York, NY.

“The Postal Service is proud to celebrate the life and legacy of Ella Fitzgerald,” said Vice President and Consumer Advocate Delores Killete, who dedicated the stamp. “Her magnificent voice combined with her gift of pitch made her a remarkable 20th century legend. This stamp is a powerful reminder of her extraordinary contribution to the world of music.” Joining Killete was Fitzgerald’s son, Ray Brown, Jr.

“My mother would be extremely overwhelmed, honored and surprised to be portrayed on a stamp,” said Brown. “For me it’s interesting because a stamp is something that’s used every day, yet it gives people an opportunity to reflect on individuals they commemorate and to learn why they are so special.” Over the years, Fitzgerald won 13 Grammy Awards and many other honors, including the National Medal of Arts, presented to her in 1987 by President Ronald Reagan. She was one of five artists awarded Kennedy Center Honors in 1979. In 1989, the Society of Singers created an award for lifetime achievement, called it the “Ella,” and made her its first recipient. In 2005, Jazz at Lincoln Center inducted Fitzgerald into its Nesuhi Ertegun Jazz Hall of Fame.