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SECOND ANNUAL CHERRY BLAST OFFERS EVENING OF ECLECTIC ART

Washington, DC [March 4, 2010] – The National Cherry Blossom Festival presents **Cherry Blast: A Night of Contemporary Art + Music**, produced by The Pink Line Project. Back after a resounding successful debut show during the 2009 Festival, Cherry Blast kicks off mid-Festival weekend on Friday, April 2 from 9:00pm to 1:00am at 1701 Florida Avenue NW.

The distinctive evening blends art and real life with performance artists, dance, film, fashion, and more, and is sponsored by Westwood College and supported in part by the D.C. Commission on the Arts and Humanities.

“It will be an extravaganza of creative experience!” raves Philippa P.B. Hughes, founder of The Pink Line Project.

In one room, **Fatback DJs** spin funk and soul opposite **Matt Hemerlein**, a classical musician, improvising with **DJ Chris Nitti** in the Cherry Lounge. **Amelia Winger-Bearskin**, professor of video and performance art at Vanderbilt University, curates cutting-edge videos. “Trance Tunnel,” an installation by **Batool Al-Shomrani** and her students at the George Washington University, plays with light and architectural shapes to create an interactive art experience. **Alexa Meade** covers found objects with tempera paint, and performance artist **Adrian Parson** offers a new cherry blossom-themed work. Graphic designers give a nod to the blossoms too, with a display of the winning entries from the Festival’s first metro-area **BLOSSOM!** Design Challenge, supported by Westwood College and Shiseido.

A \$10.00 cover charge to the sensory event includes one drink. This event is ages 21 and over with IDs required, and Metro-accessible via U Street/African-American Civil War Memorial/Cardozo on the Green/Yellow lines. Additional supporters of Cherry Blast include Shiseido, Kirin Brewery, On Tap Magazine, Ping Pong Dim Sum, and Wines of Argentina.

The National Cherry Blossom Festival is Washington, DC’s and the nation’s greatest springtime celebration. The 2010 Festival, March 27 – April 11, includes three spectacular weekends and daily events featuring diverse and creative programming promoting traditional and contemporary arts and culture, natural beauty, and community spirit. The 2010 Festival commemorates the 98th anniversary of the gift of the cherry blossom trees and the enduring friendship between United States and Japan.

For schedules and information visit www.nationalcherryblossomfestival.org
or call the Festival hotline at (877) 44BLOOM.

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