



BETTY CARTER'S JAZZ AHEAD **Kennedy Center Jazz Residency for Young People April 8-16, 2004**

Young Jazz Artists To Perform Free Millennium Stage Concerts April 14, 15 and 16 at 6 p.m. and in Wilmington, Delaware April 17 at 1 p.m.

Vocalists: Mari Jayme, Sonya Kitchell, Sofia Koutsovitis, Kathleen Schorsch

Guitarists: Brian Betz, Alan Parker

Bassists: Benjamin Campbell, Rory Haynes, Yasushi Nakamura, Ameen Saleem

Saxophonists: Brendan Romaneck, Geoff Vidal, Eric Wornom, Jacob Yoffee

Trumpeters: Douglas Pierce, Mathew White, Marlon Winder

Trombonists: Michael Dease, James Zeller

Drummers: Jeremy Clemons, John Davis, Simon Lott, Matthew Vorzimer

Vibraphonist: Timothy Collins

Pianists: Jangeun Bae, Conor Heffernan, Bryan Nichols, Dalton Ridenhour

George Cables, Nathan Davis, Curtis Fuller, Winard Harper, Chip Jackson, Carmen Lundy Lead Residency And Performances

The John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts presents "Jazz Stars of Tomorrow," three free performances by the 2004 graduates of **Betty Carter's Jazz Ahead**, on the Millennium Stage Wednesday, April 14, Thursday, April 15, and Friday, March 16 at 6 p.m. In cooperation with the City of Wilmington, Delaware, the ensemble will also perform a free concert Saturday, April 17 at 1 p.m. at the Episcopal Church of Saints Andrew and Matthew, 719 Shipley Street, Wilmington. Betty Carter's Jazz Ahead, the Kennedy Center's national jazz residency program for young, emerging artists, includes a week of intense training in performance, composing, and arranging led by saxophonist Nathan Davis (residency director), bassist Chip Jackson, trombonist Curtis Fuller, drummer Winard Harper, pianist George Cables, and vocalist Carmen Lundy. The three Kennedy Center performances, culminating events for the Jazz Ahead program, will be broadcast live on the Internet at <http://kennedy-center.org/millennium>.

Presenting Sponsor for the 2004 Betty Carter's Jazz Ahead program at the Kennedy Center is "BET Jazz." The program's presentation in Delaware is made possible, in part, by grants from the National Endowment for the Arts, and the Delaware Division of the Arts, a state agency committed to promoting and supporting the arts in Delaware.

Dr. Billy Taylor, artistic advisor for jazz to the Kennedy Center, invited the late, great jazz singer Betty Carter to bring her Jazz Ahead program to the Center in 1998. This year's residency at the Kennedy Center takes place Thursday, April 8 through Friday, April 16. Twenty-eight young artists were selected by audition application that considered both composition and performance skills. The panel of judges included jazz artists Nathan Davis, Carmen Lundy, Winard Harper, and Curtis Fuller.

About Betty Carter's Jazz Ahead

The seventh annual Betty Carter's Jazz Ahead 2004 is produced by the Kennedy Center Education Department, Derek Gordon, Kennedy Center senior vice president, and is part of the Kennedy Center's Jazz Programs, Dr. Billy Taylor, artistic advisor.

Carter founded Jazz Ahead as a vehicle to bring new life into jazz and teach the most promising fledgling artists what she knew. About her decision to create the program, Carter once remarked, "It is a concern of mine that jazz in its classical sense stands a chance of being placed in the background of the musical spectrum. Regardless of the fact that jazz is considered one of the first of America's true musical statements, it cannot survive simply on reputation alone. Creativity and explosive musical minds built this music with the sweat of what inspired them. It isn't the lack of explosive talent that burdens us. We need to create a wider pool for young talent to emerge, to be seen, and to be heard, in order to help them create viable careers of their own."

The Jazz Ahead program was originally developed by Carter in 1993 at 651, an arts center in Brooklyn, and the first concert was presented at the BAM Majestic Theater. In 1997, the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts and Dr. Billy Taylor, the Center's artistic advisor for Jazz, invited Carter to bring Jazz Ahead to Washington. On April 15, 1998, a delighted audience in the Kennedy Center Concert Hall heard the results of Carter's intense week of work with a group of 20 young jazz artists. Betty Carter's Jazz Ahead had a new home and Carter was filled with hope for the future of the program. After Carter's death in September 1998, Dr. Billy Taylor and the Kennedy Center decided to continue her legacy by making the Jazz Ahead program, with the principles Carter laid down as the foundation, an annual event.

For more information about the program, please visit <http://kennedy-center.org/jazzahead>.

PERFORMANCES: Betty Carter's Jazz Ahead at the Kennedy Center
Millennium Stage, Wednesday, April 14, 2004, at 6 p.m.
Millennium Stage, Thursday, April 15, 2004 at 6 p.m.
Millennium Stage, Friday, April 16, 2004, at 6 p.m.

Betty Carter's Jazz Ahead in Wilmington, Delaware
Saturday, April 17, 2004, at 1 p.m.

ADMISSION: FREE: No tickets are required.

PRESS ONLY, PLEASE CALL:

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PUBLIC INFORMATION:

(202) 467-4600; (800) 444-1324

2004 Betty Carter Jazz Ahead Participant Information

First Name	Hometown	Instrument/Voice	School
Jangeun Bae	Denton, TX	Piano	University of North Texas
Brian Betz	Tome River, NJ	Guitar	Rowan University
Benjamin Campbell	Los Angeles, CA	Bass	University of Southern California
Jeremy Clemons	Brooklyn, NY	Drums	North Carolina Central Univeristy
Timothy Collins	Astoria, NY	Vibraphone	Manhattan School of Music
John Davis	Jacksonville, FL	Drums	University of North Florida
Michael Dease	Agusta, GA	Trombone	The Juilliard School
Rory Haynes	Philadelphia, PA	Bass	Temple University
Conor Heffernan	Charleston, SC	Piano	College of Charleston
Mari Jayme	Chicago, IL	Voice	Roosevelt University
Sonya Kitchell	Ashfield, MA	Voice	Pioneer Valley Performing Arts High School
Sofia Koutsovitis	Boston, MA	Voice	New England Conservatory (Masters)
Simon Lott	Baton Rouge, LA	Drums	Louisiana State University
Yasushi Nakamura	Boston, MA	Bass	Berklee College of Music
Bryan Nichols	Chicago, IL	Piano	Iowa State University
Allan Parker	Richmond, VA	Guitar	Viriginia Commonwealth University
Douglas Pierce	Kalamazoo, MI	Trumpet	Western Michigan University
Dalton Ridenhour	Rochester, NY	Piano	Eastman School of Music
Brendan Romanek	Atlantic Beach, FL	Saxophone	University of North Florida
Ameen Saleem	Bayside, NY	Bass	Queens College
Kathleen Schorsch	Culver City, CA	Voice	University of Southern California
Geoff Vidal	Northampton, MA	Saxophone	UMASS Amherst
Matthew Vorzimer	New York, NY	Drums	New School
Mathew White	Jacksonville, FL	Trumpet	Univeristy of North Florida
Marlon Winder	Baltimore, MD	Trumpet	Howard University
Eric Wornom	Roxbury Crossing, MA	Saxophone	New England Conservatory
Jacob Yoffee	Baltimore, MD	Saxophone	Peabody Conservatory
James Zeller	New York, NY	Trombone	New School University