

March 22, 2006

BETTY CARTER'S JAZZ AHEAD
Kennedy Center Jazz Residency for Young People April 12-22, 2006

Young Jazz Artists To Perform Free
Millennium Stage Concerts April 19-21 at 6 p.m.
and in Wilmington, Delaware April 22 at 1 p.m.

Vocalists: Brigitte Beraha, Stacey Carter, Adia Ledbetter, Rachel Reynolds
Guitarists: Isaac Darche, Yotam Silberstein
Bassists: Jason Foureman, Jeff Greene, Linda May-Han Oh, Nathan Peklinsky
Saxophonists: Sharel Cassity, Jon Irabagon, Lummie Spann, Brandon Wright
Trumpeters: Thomas Chubb, Marlin McKay
Trombonists: Michael Dease, Melissa Gardner
Drummers: Carmen Intorre, Evan Russell Lacy, Daniel Platzman, Mark Whitfield
Pianists: Matthias Bublath, Alexander Collins, Jordan Elsberry, George King

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 2006 graduates of **Betty Carter's Jazz Ahead**, on the Millennium Stage Wednesday, April 19, Thursday, April 20, and Friday, April 21 at 6 p.m. In cooperation with the City of Wilmington, Delaware, the ensemble will also perform a free concert Saturday, April 22 at 1 p.m. at the Episcopal Church of Saints Andrew and Matthew, 719 Shipley Street, Wilmington. Betty Carter's Jazz Ahead, the Center's national jazz residency program for emerging artists, now in its 9th year, 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 2006 Betty Carter's Jazz Ahead program at the Kennedy Center is "BET J." 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. The ninth annual Betty Carter's Jazz Ahead at the Kennedy Center takes place April 12 through April 21, 2006. Twenty-five 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

Betty 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 Kennedy Center and Dr. Billy Taylor 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 19, 2006, at 6 p.m.
Millennium Stage, Thursday, April 20, 2006 at 6 p.m.
Millennium Stage, Friday, April 21, 2006, at 6 p.m.

Betty Carter's Jazz Ahead in Wilmington, Delaware
Saturday, April 22, 2006, at 1 p.m.

ADMISSION: FREE: No tickets are required.

PRESS ONLY, PLEASE CALL:

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Please do not publish contact information.

PUBLIC INFORMATION:

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

2006 Betty Carter Jazz Ahead Participant Information

Name	Hometown	Instrument	School
Brigitte Beraha	London, England	Vocalist	Guildhall School of Music, London
Matthias Bublath	Astoria, NY	Pianist	Manhattan School of Music
Stacey Carter	State College, PA	Vocalist	Michigan State University
Sharel Cassity	New York, NY	Saxophonist	The Juilliard School
Thomas Chubb	Highland Park, NJ	Trumpeter	Rutgers University
Alexander Collins	Teaneck, NJ	Pianist	Eastman School of Music
Isaac Darche	New York, NY	Guitarist	University of California, L.A.
Michael Dease	New York, NY	Trombonist	The Juilliard School
Jordan Elsberry	Omaha, NE	Pianist	University of Nebraska
Jason Foureman	Louisville, KY	Bassist	University of Louisville
Melissa Gardner	Ann Arbor, MI	Trombonist	University of Michigan
Jeff Greene	Chicago, IL	Bassist	Indiana University
Carmen Intorre	Buffalo, NY	Drummer	The Juilliard School
Jon Irabagon	Astoria, NY	Saxophonist	The Juilliard School
George King	Derbyshire, England	Pianist	Royal College of Music, London
Evan Russell Lacy	Carrboro, NC	Drummer	North Carolina Central University
Adia Ledbetter	Durham, NC	Vocalist	North Carolina Central University
Linda May-Han Oh	Perth, Australia	Bassist	Edith Cowan University
Marlin McKay	Plover, WI	Trumpeter	University of Wisconsin
Nathan Peklinsky	Jackson Heights, NY	Bassist	Wheeling Park High School
Daniel Platzman	Boston, MA	Drummer	Berklee College of Music
Rachel Reynolds	Brooklyn, NY	Vocalist	University of Illinois
Lummie Spann	Hartford, CT	Saxophonist	University of Hartford
Yotam Silberstein	Brooklyn, NY	Guitarist	New School University
Mark Whitfield	Jersey City, NJ	Drummer	McNair Academy High School
Brandon Wright	Woodcliff Lake, NJ	Saxophonist	University of Miami