



Press Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

March 15, 2011

**The Kennedy Center
announces
14th ANNUAL
BETTY CARTER'S JAZZ AHEAD PARTICIPANTS**

20 Musicians from around the world come to the Kennedy Center for intensive residency program and give 3 free performances on the Millennium Stage, April 13-15

***Trumpeters:* Keaon Brown, Wayne Tucker
Trombonists: Sam Blakeslee, Jenny Kellogg
Saxophonists: Roxy Coss, Caroline Davis, Chad Brown
Guitarists: Quentin Angus, Alex Goodman
Pianists: David Meder, Javier Santiago, Jorn Swart
Bassists: Zwelakhe-Duma Bell le Pere, Scott Colberg, Barry Stephenson
Drummers: Derek Gray, Dan Pugach, Kenneth Salters
Vocalists: Laura Brunner, Chassity Nobles**

(WASHINGTON, D.C.)— The John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts today announced the participants in Betty Carter's Jazz Ahead—its national jazz residency program for emerging artists, now in its 14th year. Twenty-one applicants from across the globe were selected by a highly competitive audition process that considered both composition and performance skills. For two weeks these artists will engage in intense training in performance, composing, and arranging led by residency director and saxophonist Dr. Nathan Davis, bassist Chip Jackson, trombonist Curtis Fuller, drummer Winard Harper, pianist George Cables, and vocalist Carmen Lundy. The 2011 graduates will perform three concerts of original compositions—culminating events for the Jazz Ahead program—on the Millennium Stage April 13-15, 2011 at 6 p.m. The free performances will be broadcast live on the Internet and archived at <http://kennedy-center.org/millennium>.

Betty Carter's Jazz Ahead participants will also give a free concert at The Music School of Delaware in Wilmington, Delaware on Saturday, April 16, 2011 at 2p.m.

Betty Carter founded Jazz Ahead as a vehicle to bring new life into jazz and teach the most promising fledgling artists what she knew. She originally developed the program 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, Artistic Director for Jazz 1994-2010, invited Carter to bring Jazz Ahead to Washington, D.C. 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. Betty Carter's Jazz Ahead alumni include Jason Moran, Jacky Terrasson, Aaron Parks, Lage Lund, Andre Hayward, Marco Panascia, Ameen Saleem, Miri Ben-Ari, Daniela Schaechter, Grace Kelly, Jon Irabagon, and more.

The Kennedy Center also opened the application process for the 2012 Betty Carter Jazz Ahead program. Serious jazz artists under the age of 30 are invited to apply for the Kennedy Center's 15th Annual Betty Carter's Jazz Ahead residency, March 26 through April 6, 2012. The deadline for the receipt of applications is November 18, 2011. Eligible candidates must be both composers and performers, and proficient in English. Each applicant must submit a résumé and an audio recording of her/his own work. A panel of jazz artists, selected by the Kennedy Center, will review applications. The Kennedy Center will provide the residency participants with housing, travel to and from Washington, D.C., and modest honoraria for meal expenses. Alumni who have previously participated in two residencies are ineligible to apply. Betty Carter's Jazz Ahead application information is available at <http://kenedy-center.org/jazzahead>, or by contacting Kennedy Center Jazz at 202/416-8348 or artsabroad@kenedy-center.org.

ABOUT KENNEDY CENTER JAZZ

Kennedy Center Jazz presents legendary artists who have helped shape the art form and rising artists who are emerging on the jazz scene in more than 30 performances a year. Launched in 2002 and dubbed "the future of the jazz nightclub" by *JazzTimes*, the KC Jazz Club hosts hot new talents and seasoned jazz veterans in an intimate setting. Annual Kennedy Center jazz events include NPR's *A Jazz Piano Christmas*, the sold-out Kennedy Center holiday tradition shared by millions around the country via broadcast on NPR; Betty Carter's Jazz Ahead, the Center's national jazz residency program for musicians under 30 with renowned jazz artists; and the

Annual Mary Lou Williams Women in Jazz Festival, the first comprehensive festival of this kind created in 1996 by Dr. Billy Taylor. The Kennedy Center showcases new jazz talent by presenting hot up-and-comers for under \$20 in the KC Jazz Club. The Center's jazz concerts are frequently recorded for future broadcast on *JazzSet with Dee Dee Bridgewater*. Kennedy Center Jazz has produced such recordings as *Taylor Made at the Kennedy Center* featuring Billy Taylor's original compositions; *Up On the Roof: The Best of Kennedy Center Jazz on JazzSet, Vol. 1*, featuring performances recorded live at the Kennedy Center; and live recordings from such artists as Mulgrew Miller, Cedar Walton, Roseanna Vitro, Toshiko Akiyoshi, and Rufus Reid, among others. Dr. Billy Taylor (1921-2010) served as the Center's Artistic Director for Jazz from 1994-2010.

Audi of America, Inc. is the Presenting Sponsor of the KC Jazz Club.

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The U.S. Department of Education supports approximately one-third of the budget for the Kennedy Center Education Department. The contents of this document do not necessarily represent the policy of the U.S. Department of Education, and you should not assume endorsement by the Federal Government.

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