



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

March 14, 2013

**The Kennedy Center
announces
15th ANNUAL
BETTY CARTER'S JAZZ AHEAD**

**Career development program for aspiring jazz musicians includes
24 Musicians from the U.S., Australia, Canada, Ireland, Israel, and Serbia
at Kennedy Center March 11-22**

***Trumpeters:* Jordan Gheen, Victor Xavier Haskins, Josh Shpak**

***Saxophonists:* Elijah Jamal Balbed, Eden Bareket, Danny Janklow**

***Guitarists:* Quentin Angus, Matt MacDougall, Andrew Renfroe**

***Pianists:* Addison Frei, Giorgi Mikadze, ArcoIris Sandoval**

***Bassists:* Katie Ernst, Barry Stephenson, Katie Thiroux**

***Drummers:* Curtis Nowosad, Diego Joaquin Ramirez, Brian Steever**

***Vocalists:* Jazzmeia Horn, Sofija Knezevic, Michael Mayo, Charles Turner III**

***Harmonica:* Roni Eytan**

***Vibes:* Nikara Warren**

**Group will give three free performances
Millennium Stage, March 20-22**

(WASHINGTON, D.C.)—The John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts today announced the participants in Betty Carter's Jazz Ahead—its international jazz residency program for emerging artists, now in its 15th year. Twenty-four participants from the U.S., Australia, Canada, Ireland, Israel, and Serbia were selected by a highly competitive audition process that considered both composition and performance skills. For nearly two weeks these artists will engage in intense training in performance, composing, and arranging led by Kennedy Center Artistic Advisor for Jazz and Residency Director Jason Moran, bassist Dwayne Burno, pianist Marc Cary, trumpeter Peven Everett, saxophonist Craig Handy, vocalist Carmen Lundy, and percussionist Nate Smith. The 2013 graduates will perform three concerts of original compositions—culminating events for the Jazz Ahead program—on the Millennium Stage March 20-22, 2013 at 6 p.m. The free performances will be broadcast live on the Internet and archived at www.kennedy-center.org/millennium.

Betty Carter founded Jazz Ahead as a vehicle to foster the musical talents of future generations of jazz talent. She originally developed the program in 1993 at 651, an arts center in Brooklyn. In 1997, the late Dr. Billy Taylor, the Kennedy Center Artistic Director for Jazz (1994-2010), invited Carter to bring Jazz Ahead to Washington, D.C. On April 15, 1998, in the Kennedy Center Concert Hall, the inaugural class of Kennedy Center Jazz Ahead students presented a concert with Carter, herself, joining them onstage for an unforgettable performance. Betty Carter's Jazz Ahead had a new home and Carter was filled with hope for the future of the program. After Carter's untimely death from pancreatic cancer in September 1998, the Carter family graciously granted the Kennedy Center the opportunity to continue her legacy by making the program an annual Kennedy Center event. Betty Carter's Jazz Ahead alumni include, among others, Jason Moran, Aaron Parks, Lage Lund, Andre Hayward, Ameen Saleem, Miri Ben-Ari, Daniela Schaechter, Grace Kelly, Jon Irabagon, and Jamison Ross.

Betty Carter's Jazz Ahead 2013 Participants

Name	Instrument	Born/Hometown	Current Residence
Quentin Angus	guitar	Eden Valley, Australia	New York, NY
Elijah Jamal Balbed	saxophone	Washington, D.C.	Washington, D.C.
Eden Bareket	saxophone	Tel Aviv, Israel	Tel Aviv, Israel
Katie Ernst	bass	Chicago, IL	Chicago, IL
Roni Eytan	harmonica	Jerusalem, Israel	Boston, MA
Addison Frei	piano	Lawrence, KS	Denton, TX
Jordan Gheen	trumpet	Ft. Worth, TX	Denton, TX
Victor Xavier Haskins	trumpet	Stafford, VA	Richmond, VA
Jazzmeia Horn	voice	Dallas, TX	New York, NY
Danny Janklow	saxophone	Los Angeles, CA	Los Angeles, CA
Sofija Knezevic	voice	Belgrade, Serbia	New York, NY
Matt MacDougall	guitar	Sidney, Nova Scotia, Canada	Bloomington, IN
Michael Mayo	voice	Los Angeles, CA	Boston, MA
Giorgi Mikadze	piano	Tbilisi, Georgia	Boston, MA
Curtis Nowosad	drums	Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada	Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada
Diego Joaquin Ramirez	drums	Cork, Ireland	Boston, MA
Andrew Renfroe	guitar	Bloomfield, CT	Bloomfield, CT
ArcoIris Sandoval	piano	Tucson, AZ	New York, NY
Josh Shpak	trumpet	Walnut Creek, CA	Boston, MA
Brian Steever	drums	Kansas City, MO	Kansas City, MO
Barry Stephenson	bass	Miami, FL	New Orleans, LA
Katie Thiroux	bass	Los Angeles, CA	Long Beach, CA
Charles Turner, III	voice	Los Angeles, CA	New York, NY
Nikara Warren	vibraphone	New York, NY	New York, NY

ABOUT KENNEDY CENTER JAZZ PROGRAMMING

Under the leadership of Jason Moran, Artistic Advisor for Jazz, the Kennedy Center presents legendary, contemporary, and up-and-coming talent in more than 50 performances a year, including those in the intimate KC Jazz Club, launched in 2002 and dubbed “the future of the jazz nightclub” by *JazzTimes*. 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; and the *Mary Lou Williams Jazz Festival*, created in 1996 by the late Dr. Billy Taylor. The Center’s jazz concerts are frequently recorded for future broadcast on NPR’s *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 *Walkin’ & Swingin’*, released in 2011, which features highlights from the 15th Annual *Mary Lou Williams Jazz Festival*.

FUNDING CREDITS

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Additional support is provided by Carolyn and Bill Powers and the U.S. Department of Education.

The *Millennium Stage* is brought to you by Target.

The *Millennium Stage* was created and underwritten by James A. Johnson and Maxine Isaacs to make the performing arts accessible to everyone in fulfillment of the Kennedy Center’s mission to its community and the nation.

Additional funding for the *Millennium Stage* is provided by Capital One Bank, DC Commission on the Arts and Humanities, The Isadore and Bertha Gudelsky Family Foundation, Inc., The J. Willard and Alice S. Marriott Foundation, The Meredith Foundation, The Morris and Gwendolyn Cafritz Foundation, Suzy and Bob Pence, Dr. Deborah Rose and Dr. Jan A.J. Stolwijk, U.S. Department of Education, and the *Millennium Stage* Endowment Fund.

Millennium Stage Endowment Fund - James A. Johnson and Maxine Isaacs, Fannie Mae Foundation, James V. Kimsey, Gilbert† and Jaylee† Mead, Mortgage Bankers Association of America, Anonymous, and other gifts to secure the future of the *Millennium Stage*.

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