



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

February 12, 2014

**The Kennedy Center
announces
16th ANNUAL
BETTY CARTER'S JAZZ AHEAD**

**Career development program for aspiring jazz musicians includes
24 Musicians from the U.S., Brazil, Canada, and Israel
at Kennedy Center February 24-March 7**

***Trumpeters:* Jordan Gheen, Nathan Nall**

***Trombonists:* Christopher Bates, Andy Clausen**

***Saxophonists:* Taylor Herron, Tal Shtuhl, Alexander Weitz**

***Guitarists:* Caio Afiune, Steve Bilodeau, Eran Sabo**

***Pianists:* Andrew Freedman, Samora Pinderhughes, William Test**

***Bassists:* Katie Ernst, Perrin Grace, Andrew Jay Randazzo**

***Drummers:* Ryan Lee, Curtis Nowosad, Brian Steever**

***Vocalists:* Faustina Abad-Sokolov, Michael Mayo, Integriti Reeves, Shacara Rogers**

***Vibes:* Nikara Warren**

**Group will give three free performances
Millennium Stage, March 5-7**

(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 16th year. Twenty-four participants from the United States, Brazil, Canada, and Israel 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, and a faculty comprised of renowned jazz artists including pianist Marc Cary, trumpeter Peven Everett, saxophonist Craig Handy, vocalist Carmen Lundy, bassist Tarus Mateen, and percussionist Nate Smith. The 2014 graduates will perform three concerts of original compositions—culminating events for the Jazz Ahead program—on the Millennium Stage March 5-7, 2014 at 6 p.m. The free performances will be broadcast live on the Internet and archived at <http://www.kennedy-center.org/programs/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. In April 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 2014 Participants

Name	Instrument	Born/Hometown	Current Residence
Faustina Abad-Sokolov	voice	Tel-Aviv, Israel	Rehovot, Israel
Caio Afiune	guitar	Sao Paulo, Brazil	Boston, MA
Christopher Bates	trombone	Suffolk, VA	Richmond, VA
Steve Bilodeau	guitar	Kanata, Ontario, Canada	Jamaica Plain, MA
Andy Clausen	trombone	Seattle, WA	New York, NY
Katie Ernst	bass	Naperville, IL	Chicago, IL
Andrew Freedman	piano	Rancho Palos Verdes, CA	New York, NY
Jordan Gheen	trumpet	Fort Worth, TX	Denton, TX
Perrin Grace	bass	Ann Arbor, MI	Denton, TX
Taylor Herron	saxophone	Missoula, MT	New York, NY
Ryan J. Lee	drums	Kansas City, MO	Kansas City, MO
Michael Mayo	voice	Van Nuys, CA	Boston, MA
Nathan Nall	trumpet	Cape Girardeau, MO	Kansas City, MO
Curtis Nowosad	drums	Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada	Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada
Samora Pinderhughes	piano	Berkeley, CA	New York, NY
Andrew Jay Randazzo	bass	Washington, DC	Richmond, VA
Integriti Reeves	voice	Fort Washington, MD	Hyattsville, MD
Shacara Rogers	voice	Philadelphia, PA	Washington, DC
Eran Sabo	guitar	Kfar Saba, Isreal	New York, NY
Tal Shtuhl	saxophone	Philadelphia, PA	Philadelphia, PA
Brian Steever	drums	Sioux Falls, SD	Kansas City, MO
Billy Test	piano	Philipsburg, PA	New York, NY
Nikara Warren	vibraphone	Brooklyn, NY	Brooklyn, NY
Alexander Weitz	saxophone	Tuscon, AZ	Miami, FL

ABOUT KENNEDY CENTER JAZZ

Kennedy Center Jazz, and its Artistic Advisor Jason Moran, presents legendary artists who have helped shape the art form and artists who are emerging on the jazz scene in hundreds of performances a year. The KC Jazz Club, launched in 2002 and dubbed “the future of the jazz nightclub” by *JazzTimes*, hosts many of these artists in an intimate setting, while the Crossroads Club (launched in 2012) is a nightclub dance venue. Annual Kennedy Center jazz events include the professional development residency program for young artists, *Betty Carter’s Jazz Ahead*; NPR’s *A Jazz Piano Christmas*, the 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 (Kennedy Center Artistic Advisor for Jazz, 1994–2010). The Center’s jazz concerts are frequently recorded for future broadcast on NPR. 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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Major support for educational programs at the Kennedy Center is provided by **David and Alice Rubenstein** through the *Rubenstein Arts Access Program*.

The *Millennium Stage* is brought to you by Target and The J. Willard and Alice S. Marriott Foundation.

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 DC Commission on the Arts and Humanities, The Isadore and Bertha Gudelsky Family Foundation, Inc., Jaylee M. Mead†, The Meredith Foundation, The Morris and Gwendolyn Cafritz Foundation, Dr. Deborah Rose and Dr. Jan A.J. Stolwijk, U.S. Department of Education, and the *Millennium Stage* Endowment Fund.

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For more information about the Kennedy Center visit www.kennedy-center.org.

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PRESS CONTACT*:

Emily Krahn
(202) 416-8447

erkrahn@kennedy-center.org

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PUBLIC INFORMATION:

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

www.kennedy-center.org