



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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**The Kennedy Center
announces
participants selected to the
17th ANNUAL
*BETTY CARTER'S JAZZ AHEAD***

**Career development program for aspiring jazz musicians includes
24 performers from across the world
at the Kennedy Center
March 23 to April 3, 2015**

***Trumpeters:* Aaron Larson Tevis, Alex Parchment, David Adewumi**

***Trombonists:* Andy Clausen, Dillon Garrett**

***Saxophonists:* David Leon, Drew Zaremba, Michael Casey**

***Guitarists:* Felipe Vilas Boas, Lucas Kadish, Mark McIntyre**

***Pianists:* Gene Knific, Guy Mintus, Miki Yamanaka**

***Bassists:* Adam Olszewski, Alexander Tremblay, Ethan Philion**

***Drummers:* Evan Hyde, Felix Heim, Matt Young**

***Vocalists:* Amanda Ekery, Chelsea Lee-Smart, Mary Jean Brødsgaard Moore**

***Harmonica:* Yotam Ben-Or**

**Musicians will present free performances
on the Kennedy Center Millennium Stage
April 1-3, 2015**

(WASHINGTON)—The John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts today announced the participants in *Betty Carter's Jazz Ahead*—the international jazz residency, performance, and composition project discovering and presenting the next generation of jazz greats—to be held March 23 to April 3, 2015 at the Kennedy Center in Washington, D.C. Led by Kennedy Center Artistic Director for Jazz Jason Moran, the *Jazz Ahead* program identifies outstanding, emerging jazz artists/composers in their mid-teens to age 25 and brings them together under the tutelage of experienced artists/instructors who coach and counsel them, polishing their performance, composing, and arranging skills.

A total of 24 highly talented young musicians from the United States, Brazil, Australia, Denmark, Israel, Norway, and Japan were selected by a competitive audition process that considered their composition and performance abilities. Renowned jazz artists joining Moran to lead the residency include pianist Cyrus Chestnut, saxophonist J.D. Allen, vocalist Carmen Lundy, trombonist Andre Hayward,

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bassist Eric Revis, and drummer Eric Harland. The 2015 *BCJA* program culminates in three concerts on the Kennedy Center Millennium Stage, April 1-3, 2015 at 6 p.m, in which the graduates will perform original compositions. The free performances are open to the general public, and will also be broadcast live on the [Kennedy Center website](#) and archived for subsequent access.

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 (Kennedy Center Artistic Director for Jazz, 1994-2010) invited Carter to bring *Jazz Ahead* to Washington, D.C. In April 1998, the inaugural class of Kennedy Center *Jazz Ahead* students presented an unforgettable concert with Carter herself joining them on the Kennedy Center Concert Hall stage. Jason Moran, then a young pianist from Houston, was selected by Carter to be a student in this first year at Kennedy Center. *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. Distinguished alumni from *Betty Carter's Jazz Ahead* include pianists Jason Moran and Aaron Parks; guitarist Lage Lund; trombonist Andre Hayward; bassist Ameen Saleem; violinist Miri Ben-Ari; vocalists Daniela Schaechter and Grace Kelly; saxophonists Marcus Strickland and Jon Irabagon; and drummer Jamison Ross, among others.

As part of a collaboration with the National YoungArts Foundation (YoungArts), three alumni of YoungArts programming have been selected as "YoungArts Fellows" for the 2015 *Betty Carter's Jazz Ahead*. The following fellows will receive additional support to attend the program in Washington, D.C.: guitarist Lucas Kadish, saxophonist David Leon, and trombonist Andy Clausen.

Betty Carter's Jazz Ahead 2015 Participants

NAME	INSTRUMENT	CURRENT CITY	HOMETOWN
Adam Olszewski	Bass	East Lansing, MI	Ann Arbor, MI
Alexander Tremblay	Bass	Brooklyn, NY	Providence, RI
Ethan Pillion	Bass	Silver Spring, MD	Silver Spring, MD
Evan Hyde	Drums	Miami, FL	Grand Rapids, MI
Felix Heim	Drums	Johanneshov, Sweden	Paradis, Bergen, Norway
Matt Young	Drums	Denton, TX	Atlanta, GA
Felipe Vilas Boas	Guitar	Belo Horizonte, Minas Gerais, Brazil	Belo Horizonte, Minas Gerais, Brazil
Lucas Kadish	Guitar	New York, NY	Hudson, OH
Mark McIntyre	Guitar	New York, NY	Yorktown Heights, NY
Yotam Ben-Or	Harmonica	New York, NY	Nataf, Israel
Gene Knific	Piano	Miami, FL	Kalamazoo, MI
Guy Mintus	Piano	New York, NY	Hod Hasharon, Israel
Miki Yamanaka	Piano	Queens, NY	Kobe City, Hyogo Prefecture, Japan

David Leon	Saxophone	Miami, FL	Miami, FL
Drew Zaremba	Saxophone	Denton, TX	Anaheim, CA
Michael Casey	Saxophone	Hartford, CT	Storrs, CT
Andy Clausen	Trombone	New York, NY	Seattle, WA
Dillon Garrett	Trombone	Denton, TX	Denton, TX
Aaron Larson Tevis	Trumpet	Boston, MA	North Bend, WA
Alex Parchment	Trumpet	Montclair, NJ	Paterson, NJ
David Adewumi	Trumpet	Boston, MA	Hooksett, NH
Amanda Ekery	Voice	Denton, TX	El Paso, TX
Chelsea Lee-Smart	Voice	Adelaide, South Australia	Adelaide, South Australia
Mary Jean BrødsgaardMoore	Voice	Aarhus, Denmark	Aarhus, Denmark

ABOUT KENNEDY CENTER JAZZ

Kennedy Center Jazz, under the leadership of Artistic Director 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 Director for Jazz, 1994–2010). The Center’s jazz concerts are frequently recorded for future broadcast on NPR’s *Jazz Night in America*. 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

Betty Carter’s Jazz Ahead is made possible through the generous support of The King-White Family Foundation and Dr. J. Douglas White, The Argus Fund, and the U.S. Department of Education.

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 The Isadore and Bertha Gudelsky Family Foundation, Inc., 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.

The *Millennium Stage* Endowment Fund was made possible by James A. Johnson and Maxine Isaacs, Fannie Mae Foundation, James V. Kimsey, Gilbert and Jaylee Mead, Mortgage Bankers Association of America and other anonymous gifts to secure the future of the *Millennium Stage*.

Kennedy Center education and related artistic programming is made possible through the generosity of the National Committee for the Performing Arts and the President's Advisory Committee on the Arts.

**For more information about *Betty Carter's Jazz Ahead*,
please visit www.kennedy-center.org/programs/jazz/jazzahead/.**

Please visit facebook.com/kennedycenter for behind-the-scenes news, special offers, advance notice of events, and other related Kennedy Center Facebook pages.

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