

March 17, 2005

BETTY CARTER'S JAZZ AHEAD
Kennedy Center Jazz Residency for Young People March 23-April 1, 2005

**Young Jazz Artists To Perform Free
Millennium Stage Concerts March 30-April 1 at 6 p.m.
and in Wilmington, Delaware April 2 at 1 p.m.**

Vocalists: Nefertari Bey, Marcus Mitchell, Rani Weatherby

Guitarists: Kyle Asche, Jonathan Bremen, Alan Parker

Bassists: Renee Marie Cruz, Dezron Douglas, Peter Maness

Saxophonists: Ariel Alexander, Remy LeBoeuf, Idit Shner, Seth Trachy

Trumpeters: Josh Evans, Alex Nguyen

Trombonists: Nick DePinna

Drummers: Jeremy Jones, Colin Stranahan, Rodolfo Zuniga

Tuba: Stefan Kac

Vibraphonist: Christian Tamburr

Pianists: Jordan Baskin, Brenda Earle, Michael Kahr, Pascal Le Boeuf, Aaron Weiman

**Kenny Barron, 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 2005 graduates of **Betty Carter's Jazz Ahead**, on the Millennium Stage Wednesday, March 30, Thursday, March 31, and Friday, April 1 at 6 p.m. In cooperation with the City of Wilmington, Delaware, the ensemble will also perform a free concert Saturday, April 2 at 1 p.m. at the Episcopal Church of Saints Andrew and Matthew, 719 Shipley Street, Wilmington. Betty Carter's Jazz Ahead, the Kennedy Center's national jazz residency program for young, emerging artists, 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 Kenny Barron, 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 2005 Betty Carter's Jazz Ahead program at the Kennedy Center is "BET Jazz." 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. This year's residency at the Kennedy Center takes place Wednesday, March 23 through Friday, April 1. Twenty-eight 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

The eighth annual Betty Carter's Jazz Ahead 2005 is produced by the Kennedy Center Education Department, Darrell Ayers, Kennedy Center senior vice president, and is part of the Kennedy Center's Jazz Programs, Dr. Billy Taylor, Artistic Advisor.

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 John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts and Dr. Billy Taylor, the Center's artistic advisor for Jazz, 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, March 30, 2005, at 6 p.m.
Millennium Stage, Thursday, March 31, 2005 at 6 p.m.
Millennium Stage, Friday, April 1, 2005, at 6 p.m.

Betty Carter's Jazz Ahead in Wilmington, Delaware
Saturday, April 2, 2005, 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

2005 Betty Carter Jazz Ahead Participant Information

First Name	Hometown	Instrument/Voice	School
Ariel Alexander	St. Louis, MO	Saxophone	Indiana University, Bloomington
Kyle Asche	Columbus, NE	Guitar	Northern Illinois University
Jordan Baskin	Evanston, IL	Piano	Indiana University School of Music
Nefertari Bey	Oakland, CA	Vocalist	Georgia State University
Jonathan Bremen	El Dorado Hills, CA	Guitar	Indiana University, Bloomington
Renee Marie Cruz	Miami, FL	Double Bass	New School University
Nick DePinna	Pleasanton, CA	Trombone	University of California, L.A.
Dezron Douglas	Hartford, CT	Double Bass	University of Hartford
Brenda Earle	New York, NY	Piano	Manhattan School of Music
Josh Evans	Hartford, CT	Trumpet/Flugelhorn	Manhattan School of Music
Marcus Evans	Gary, Indiana	Drums	Northern Illinois University
Jeremy Jones	Bellevue, WA	Drums	Duke University
Stefan Kac	Minneapolis, MN	Tuba	University of Minnesota
Michael Kahr	Pernegg, Austria	Piano	Sydney Conservatorium of Music
Pascal Le Boeuf	Santa Cruz, CA	Piano/Keyboards	Manhattan School of Music
Remy Le Boeuf	Santa Cruz, CA	Saxophone	Manhattan School of Music
Peter Maness	Greensboro, NC	Bass	University of North Carolina, Greensboro
Marcus Mitchell	Milwaukee, WI	Vocalist	Lane College
Alex Nguyen	Savannah, GA	Trumpet	University of North Florida
Alan Parker	Richmond, VA	Guitar	Virginia Commonwealth University
Idit Shner	Israel	Saxophone	University of North Texas (Doctorate)
Colin Stranahan	Denver, CO	Drums	Denver School of the Arts
Christian Tamburr	Satellite Beach, FL	Vibraphone	University of North Florida
Seth Trachy	Wilmington, NC	Saxophone	New School University
Rani Weatherby	Snohomish, WA	Vocalist	Central Washington University
Aaron Weiman	Takoma Park, MD	Piano	Rutgers University
Rodolfo Zuniga	Miami, FL	Drums	Florida International University