

**11th ANNUAL
BETTY CARTER'S JAZZ AHEAD
Kennedy Center Jazz Residency March 17-30, 2008
Young Jazz Artists Perform Free
Millennium Stage Concerts March 26-28 at 6 p.m.**

Violinist: Andrei Matorin

Flautist: Itai Kriss

Clarinetist: Simon Wyrsh

Trumpeters: Itamar Borochoy, James Davis

Trombonists: Sara Jacovino, Marcus Lewis

Saxophonists: David Jachimiak, Adam Larson, Michael Thomas

Guitarists: Brett Canter, Yotam Silberstein

Vocalists: Natalie John, Jennifer Ledesna, Sofia Ribeiro, Tamar Scheffer

Pianists: Sam Crowe, Matthew DesChamplain, Jack Glottman, Noah Kellman

Bassists: Anthony DePaolis, Michael Feinberg, Justin Gray, Peter Yuskauskas

Drummers: Stockton Helbing, Sean Mullins, Karl Schwonik, Clemens Zecha

**RESIDENCY LEADERS: Nathan Davis, Curtis Fuller,
Winard Harper, Chip Jackson, Carmen Lundy, Daniela Schaechter**

Now in its 11th year, Betty Carter's Jazz Ahead—the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts national jazz residency program for emerging artists—includes two weeks 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 Daniela Schaechter, and vocalist Carmen Lundy. The 2008 graduates will perform three free concerts on the Millennium Stage Wednesday, March 26, Thursday, March 27, and Friday, March 28, 2008 at 6 p.m. 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>. In cooperation with the City of Wilmington, Delaware, the ensemble will also perform a free concert Saturday, March 29 at the Grand Opera House. On Sunday, March 30, the ensemble travels to Reading, Pennsylvania to perform a concert at the Miller Center in conjunction with the Berks Jazz Festival.

Dr. Billy Taylor, Artistic Director 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. Twenty-eight young artists were selected for the eleventh annual residency 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. 2008's group of participants includes emerging musicians from the U.S., Canada, the U.K., Colombia, Israel, Brazil, Portugal, Switzerland, and Austria.

About Betty Carter's Jazz Ahead

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 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 Cyrus Chestnut, Jason Moran, Jacky Terrasson, Aaron Parks, Lage Lund, Andre Hayward, Marco Panascia, Ameen Saleem, Miri Ben-Ari, Daniela Schaechter, and more.

For more information about the program, please visit <http://kennedy-center.org/jazzahead>.

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