



Press Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

March 24, 2009

**12th ANNUAL
BETTY CARTER'S JAZZ AHEAD
Kennedy Center Jazz Residency March 23-April 3, 2009
Free Millennium Stage Concerts April 1-3 at 6 p.m.**

***Trumpeters:* Matthew Jodrell, Wayne Tucker**

***Trombonists:* James Burton III, Melissa Jean**

***Saxophonists:* Caleb Curtis, Steve Lambert, Peter Reardon-Anderson, Will Reardon-Anderson**

***Guitarists:* Larry Brown Jr., Graham Keir**

***Vocalists:* Sarah Charles, Jennifer Ledesna, Lena Seikaly, Sonia Szajnberg**

***Vibraphonists:* Behn Gillece, Benjamin Portner**

***Hammond B-3 Organist:* Eli Sundelson**

***Pianists:* Roy Assaf, Nicolas Hetko, Eric Hirsh, Ben Markley**

***Bassists:* Adam Cote, Kevin Hsieh, Benjamin Leifer, Marcos Varela**

***Drummers:* John Lumpkin, Jimmy Macbride, Jesse Simpson, Clif Wallace II**

**RESIDENCY LEADERS: Nathan Davis, Curtis Fuller, George Cables,
Chip Jackson, Michael Bowie, Winard Harper, Carmen Lundy, Dr. Billy Taylor**

WASHINGTON, D.C.: Now in its 12th 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), bassists Chip Jackson and Michael Bowie, trombonist Curtis Fuller, drummer Winard Harper, pianist George Cables, vocalist Carmen Lundy, and the Center's Artistic Director for Jazz Dr. Billy Taylor. The 2009 graduates will perform three free concerts, culminating events for the Jazz Ahead program, on the Millennium Stage Wednesday, April 1, Thursday, April 2, and Friday, April 3, 2009 at 6 p.m. The three Kennedy Center performances will be broadcast live on the Internet at <http://kennedy-center.org/millennium>.

Dr. Billy Taylor, Artistic Director for Jazz at the Kennedy Center, invited the late, great jazz singer Betty Carter to bring her Jazz Ahead program to the Center in 1998. Twenty-nine young artists were selected for the twelfth 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. 2009's group of participants includes emerging musicians from across the U.S., Australia, and Israel.

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, Grace Kelly, Jon Irabagon, and more.

Applications Sought for April 2010

The Kennedy Center invites young jazz artists in their teens through their late-20s to apply for the Kennedy Center's 13th Annual Betty Carter's Jazz Ahead residency project, March 15 –26, 2010. The deadline for the receipt of applications is November 20, 2009. Serious jazz musicians are invited to apply. Eligible candidates must be both composers and performers, proficient in English, and under the age of 30. Each applicant must submit a résumé and an audio recording of his/her own work. A panel of jazz artists, selected by the Kennedy Center, will review applications. The Kennedy Center will provide the residency participants with housing, travel to and from Washington, D.C., and modest honoraria for meal expenses. Alumni who have previously participated in two residencies are ineligible to apply. Betty Carter's Jazz Ahead application information is available at <http://kennedy-center.org/jazzahead>, or by contacting Kennedy Center Jazz at 202/416-8348 or artsabroad@kennedy-center.org.

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

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Please do not publish contact information.

PUBLIC INFORMATION:

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

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