Princeton University Concert Jazz Ensemble
and the Princeton University Orchestra
conducted by Anthony D.J. Branker

present

Jazz meets the Symphony Orchestra

featuring

Duke Ellington’s New World A Comin’
McCoy Tyner’s In Search of My Heart
Clare Fischer’s Pensativa
Marvin Fisher’s When Sunny Gets Blue
(arr. by Todd Beaney)

with

Christine McLeavey, piano
Melissa Antoinette, alto
Martha Elliott, soprano

Saturday
February 28, 2004
at 8:00 p.m.

Richardson Auditorium
in Alexander Hall
Princeton University
PROGRAM

Concert Jazz Ensemble

But Beautiful .................................................. Johnny Burke
Ben Wasserman, tenor saxophone
Ben Wasserman, tenor saxophone
Jimmy Van Heusen
arr. Bill Holman

CJE Quartet and University Orchestra

Pensativa ........................................................ Clare Fischer
Audrey Wright, soprano saxophone
Michael Yang, piano
Dean Reynolds, bass
Bryan Gergen, drums

CJE Quartet

In Your Own Sweet Way ........................................ Dave Brubeck
Ben Wasserman, tenor saxophone
Michael Yang, piano
Dean Reynolds, bass
Jonathan Marks, drums

Concert Jazz Ensemble and University Orchestra

In Search of My Heart ........................................ McCoy Tyner
Melissa Antoinette, vocalist
transcription/arrangement
by Anthony Branker

Concert Jazz Ensemble

Concerto for Cootie ............................................ Edward Kennedy Ellington
Christopher Thomas, trumpet
transcribed by David Berger

CJE Quartet

You Taught My Heart To Sing .................................. McCoy Tyner
Melissa Antoinette, vocalist
Audrey Betsy Wright, alto saxophone
Michael Yang, piano
Dan Ryan, bass
Jonathan Marks, drums

Concert Jazz Ensemble and University Orchestra

When Sunny Gets Blue ........................................ Marvin Fisher/Jack Segal
Martha Elliott, vocalist
arranged by Todd Beaney

New World A Comin' .......................................... Edward Kennedy Ellington
Christine McLeavey, piano

CONCERT JAZZ ENSEMBLE

Saxophones
alto 1: Audrey Betsy Wright
alto 2: Robert Berger
tenor 1: Ben Wasserman
tenor 2: Mark Dely
bass: Anthony Wadacurate

Trumpets
lead: Marcus Lowther
2nd: Christopher Thomas
3rd: John Hrvatin
4th: Cory Jerch

Rhythm Section
piano: Michael Yang
bass: Daniel Ryan
Drums: Jonathan Marks
Bryan Gergen

PRINCETON UNIVERSITY ORCHESTRA

Michael Pratt, Music Director

Violin I
David Shen
Denise Wong
Patti Chao
Jennifer Huo
Jordan Lieb
Shirley Wuu
Brooke Stoddard
Marcus Lampert

Violin II
James Park
Annie Liu
Desiree Fowler
Lear Janiv
Tiffany Way
Nandita Gupta
Amie Ko

Viola
Don Ruoppo
Rosemary Ku
Eun-Jung Lee
Janet Lo
Nikki Federman

Cello
Yoon-Mee Cho
Paul Thompson
Jenny Tsiu
Charles Melby-Thomason
Serena Dyal

Flute
Lindsay Brillton (piccolo)
Uma Tadepalli

Oboe
Emily Herchen
Connor Ross

English Horn
Emily Herchen

Clarinet
Ayan Chatterjee
Jian Shen
Anna Thomas

Bass Clarinet
Ben Holskin

Bassoon
Rohita Jut
Christine Stahl

French Horn
Darin Sleiter
Sarah Murphy
Rebecca Garr
Sheila Arra

Tuba
Erik Williamson
Melissa Antinnette-Grant (MelSoulTree), also, is a native of New York City and an internationally renowned vocalist. She has performed in Germany, France, Switzerland, Argentina, Uruguay, Chile, Canada, as well as throughout the United States, and has recorded for Lo-Key, Select, Wild Pitch, and Gianni/Warner record labels. She is currently touring as a member of Crystal, one of the most popular girl groups of the 1960s made popular by Phil Spector’s “Wall of Sound.” MelSoulTree has been a featured vocalist with the legendary Duke Ellington Orchestra under the direction of Paul Elliott and has had the privilege of working with such legendary musicians as vocalists Smokey Robinson, Sheila Jordan, and bassist Ron Carter. She is also the former lead singer of the Lo Key Records R&B girl group Local Tender and the underground New York City band Special Request. As an actress, MelSoulTree has performed in productions produced by the Negro Ensemble Company, The National Black Theater, The Billie Holiday Theater, the Wies & Reasons Theater in Rhode Island, the Nuyorican Café, and the National Black Theater Festival. She holds a B.F.A. in Music from the City College of New York and received her actor’s training from the Harlem Theater Company. In 2002, MelSoulTree was featured as vocal soloist with the Princeton University Concert Jazz Ensemble and Chapel Choir for the performance of The Sacred Concerts of Edward Kennedy Ellington, conducted by Anthony D.J. Branker. Martha Elliott, sopran0, has established a reputation as a dynamic singer with a wide range of repertoire, including avant-garde contemporary music, opera, chamber music, and baroque music with period instruments. She has toured all over the world with the famed new music ensemble Continuum, including performances in New York City, South America, Europe, and Asia. She has been critically acclaimed for her performances of Peer Gynt Lunitare, and music of John Cage, as well as for the role of Miranda in the world premiere of Peter Wolfanger’s opera The Tempest. Ms. Elliott has also presented world premieres with the Princeton University Orchestra on tour throughout Eastern Europe and the U.K. She has sung at the Marlboro Music Festival, Trinity Church in N.Y.C., as well as in Boston, Los Angeles, San Francisco, Washington, Philadelphia, Providence and Princeton. In the tri-state area she has performed with the Opera Festival of New Jersey, Pennsylvania Opera Theatre, Concert Soloists of Philadelphia, Philadelphia Chamber Music Society, The Chamber Music Society of New Jersey, Philadelphia’s Network for New Music, Princeton Pro Musica, Concert Royal, and the Richardson Chamber Players. This is Ms. Elliott’s third appearance with the Princeton University Concert Jazz Ensemble. Previously, she was featured in the 1999 performance of The Sacred Concert Music of Duke Ellington along with the University Glee Club/Concert Choir and in the CIE’s program celebrating The Great American Songbook. Graduating with honors from Princeton University in 1982, she went on to receive a Masters from Juilliard. She currently teaches at Princeton.

Christine McLeavey ’81 began playing the piano at age four and studies currently at the Juilliard School of Music with Jonathan Feldman and Julian Martin. As a jazz chamber musician, she has been acclaimed by audiences in the U.S. and abroad, and counts among her favorite experiences performances with the Chamber Orchestra of Philadelphia and with the Kingston Chamber Music Festival, directed by Philadelphia Orchestra concertmaster David Kim. In the spring of 2001, Ms. McLeavey performed the Prokofiev 3rd Piano Concerto with the Princeton University Orchestra as winner of the concerto competition. Ms. McLeavey is thrilled to be returning to Richardson Auditorium, where she first appeared as a violinist in the Princeton Orchestra in the fall of 1996. Having graduated as co-valedictorian of Princeton, with a degree in Physics and certificates in Piano Performance and Engineering Physics, she is now pursuing her Masters in collaborative piano. She is a recent winner of both the State and Eastern Division in the Music Teachers’ National Association collegiate piano competition. She has studied with Elizabeth Diffie and Ira Brown of London’s Nash Ensemble and has also participated in Master Classes of Ivan Moravec, Malcolm Martineau, Gary Griffman, and Jerome Lowenthal. Ms. McLeavey will spend this coming summer as a fellow at the Tanglewood Music Festival. Todd Beane ’80 received his B.A. in Music from Princeton University and his Master of Music from the Eastman School of Music. A former pianist and arranger with the Glenn Miller Orchestra, Mr. Beane currently teaches vocal and electronic music at Rye High School and Middle School in Rye, NY, and serves as Music Director at Wilton Baptist Church in Wilton, CT. He has done extensive work developing curriculum to incorporate music technology into the middle and high school levels. Also a Princeton Triangle Club alumnus, he is a member of numerous musical theater productions and currently serves as Musical Director for “Guys and Dolls” at RHS. Writing and Recording projects in process include a compilation of dance pieces; several choral pieces; and a series of hymn arrangements for piano solo.

Princeton University Jazz Program

The Princeton University Concert Jazz Ensemble, under the direction of Anthony D.J. Branker, enjoys a reputation as one of the most outstanding collegiate jazz groups in the United States. These gifted students, and other national award-winning jazz program, have appeared in concert with such internationally renowned jazz artists as Clark Terry, Phil Woods, Slide Hampton, Jimmy Heath, Jon Faddis, Oliver Lake, Frank Foster, Benny Carter, Ted Curson, Stanley Jordan, Bobby Watson, Terence Blanchard, Bob Mintzer, Ralph Peterson, Steve Nelson, Antonio Hart, Jacky Terrasson, Jon King, Wally Wilkofsky, Valery Ponomarev, Bryan courts, Michael Philip Mossman, Ralph Bowen, Rick Margitz, Mark Gross, Clifford Adams, Jeffrey Smith, and Guillaume Franco. They have also been fortunate to feature Dr. Billy Taylor, Victor Lewis, Roy Hargrove, James Williams, Craig Handy, Conrad Herwig, Jon Black, Bruce Williams, and Jeremy Pelt as guest lecturers in master class situations.
In an effort to educate and expose, Princeton’s Jazz Program has undertaken a number of stylistically diverse and challenging projects in concert programming. They have presented such programs as “Hotter Than That: Louis Armstrong and the Early Years of Jazz” – featuring music from Armstrong’s Hot Five and Hot Seven Recordings, Jelly Roll Morton and Fletcher Henderson; Lalo Schifrin’s afrocentric Gillespiana Suite, written for trumpet Dizzy Gillespie; “Jazz and the Latin Tinge” – spotlighting classic works from the Latin jazz orchestras of Mario Bauza, Dizzy Gillespie and Chico O’Farrill; and “A Love Supreme: The Spirit and Sound of John Coltrane’s Music” featuring tenor saxophonist Ralph Bowen, the world premiere of a commissioned work for big band by composer & trumpeter Michael Philip Mossman, and a performance of John Coltrane’s “A Love Supreme” suite.

The jazz program is also dedicated to the performance of the historically significant music of Duke Ellington and Billy Strayhorn. They have presented such works as Ellington’s extended orchestral composition, A Tone Parallel to Harlem with the Princeton University Orchestra, The Sacred Concert Music of Duke Ellington with the Princeton University Chapel Choir as well as with the University Glee Club and Gospel Ensemble, Ellington and Strayhorn’s Far East and New Orleans Suites, the all-Strayhorn program of big band music entitled, “A Lush Life: The Music of Billy Strayhorn,” as well as the Ellington/Strayhorn collaborative adaptation of Peter Ilyich Tchaikovsky’s Nutcracker Suite and Edward Grieg’s Peer Gynt Suites Nos. 1 & 2.

The Concert Jazz Ensemble has also been proud to present a number of concerts devoted to the works of guest composers. Such programs have focused on the music of Jimmy Heath, Frank Foster, Slide Hampton, Bob Mintzer, Oliver Lake, Michael Philip Mossman, Bobby Watson, Ralph Bowen, Ted Curson, Ralph Peterson, Jonny King and Walt Weiskopf.

In 1999, the University Monk/Mingus Ensemble was named the winner of the 22nd Annual Down Beat magazine Student Music Award for “Best Jazz Instrumental Group” in the college division. Recently, Princeton’s jazz program received its second national award from Down Beat when Ensemble X was chosen as the winner of “Outstanding Performance” honors in the jazz instrumental group category. The Concert Jazz Ensemble has been featured in performance at the International Association for Jazz Education International Conference in Washington, D.C., the National Endowment for the Humanities Paul Robeson Institute at Rutgers University, Down Beat MusicFest U.S.A. National Finals (Oakland, California), and has received numerous awards at intercollegiate jazz festivals held at the University of Notre Dame, Villanova University, and Rowan (Glassboro) University. In addition, several students from the Concert Jazz Ensemble were named winners of prestigious “Outstanding Soloist” awards at Down Beat’s MusicFest U.S.A. National Finals and at the Notre Dame Intercolligate Jazz Festival.

Princeton’s jazz program has also produced seven recording projects over the past decade, which include Sounds From The Free-Thinking (Monk/Mingus Ensemble) with guest trumpet soloist and former Mingus band member Ted Curson, Music From the Sacred Concerts of Edward Kennedy Ellington (Concert Jazz Ensemble and Chapel Choir), What’s Going On? (Ensemble X), Mosaic (Concert Jazz Ensemble & Hard Bop Ensemble), The Sacred Concert Music of Duke Ellington (Concert Jazz Ensemble, Glee Club and Gospel Ensemble), Mean What You Say (Concert Jazz Ensemble), and 7 Steps 2 Heaven (Concert Jazz Ensemble).

Presently, the Princeton University Jazz Ensemble Program features two 17-piece big bands (Concert Jazz Ensemble and Jazz Ensemble II) and an ever-changing variety of small groups which have included the John Coltrane Ensemble, Afro-Groove Ensemble, CJIE Jazztet, Horace Silver Ensemble, Fusion Ensemble, Wayne Shorter Ensemble, Ensemble X, New Orleans Ensemble, Jazz Saxophone Quartet, Art Blakey Ensemble, Avant Garde Ensemble, Jazz Composers’ Ensemble, Miles Davis Ensemble, Monk/Mingus Ensemble, Hard Bop Ensemble and the Jazz Workshop Ensemble. Qualified students have the opportunity to pursue further studies in jazz performance through the Music Department’s Certificate Program in Musical Performance.

The Conductor

Anthony D.J. Branker is Conductor of University Jazz Ensembles and Senior Lecturer in Music at Princeton University. He is also a member of the jazz faculty at the Manhattan School of Music where he teaches jazz history. Mr. Branker has served as Professor of Music and Director of Jazz Studies at Hunter College of the City University of New York where he held the administrative position of Director of Performance Studies. He was the Artistic Director of Hunter’s Jazz Forum Concert Series and conducted the Hunter Jazz Repertory Orchestra. He has also served as Chairperson of the Department of Music at Ursinus College, where he was a member of the faculty for ten years and as Instrumental Music Coordinator and Head of Jazz Studies for the New Jersey Summer Arts Institute at Rutgers University for ten years.

Professor Branker has been honored by the United States Department of Education with a Presidential Scholars Teacher Recognition Award, the Institute for Arts and Humanities Education Distinguished Teaching Award, and the International Association of Jazz Educators Award for Outstanding Service to Jazz Education. He has appeared as guest jazz conductor with the Jugend Sinfonie Orchester (Bremen, Germany), Kiryat Ono Symphonic Youth Band (Israel), Fukui Junior Orchestra (Fukui, Japan), the New Jersey IAJE Intercolligate All State Jazz Ensemble, and has conducted performances that have featured the Princeton University Orchestra, Chapel Choir, Glee Club/Concert Choir, and Gospel Ensemble.

As a composer, Branker has received two composition prizes from the International Association for Jazz Education, a commission from The Commission Project®, and has had his music featured in performance in Russia, France, Finland, Germany, Lithuania, New York’s Symphony Space, and at ASCAP’s Jazz Songwriters Showcase at the Fez under the Time Café. His works have been performed and/or recorded by Steve Nelson, Stanley Jordan, Talib Kwibey, Brian Carroll, Jann Parker, and the Spirit of Life Ensemble and have featured such guest soloists as Kenny Barron, Eddie Henderson, John Hicks, Valery Ponomarev, Winard Harper, Joe Ford, Cecil Brooks III, Onaje Allen Gumbs, and Alex Blake.

As a trumpeter, Branker has performed and recorded with the Spirit of Life Ensemble – including a five-year residency at New York’s internationally renowned ‘Sweet Basil’ jazz club. He has served as assistant musical director & composer for the group and was featured on four of their CD releases. He has also performed at a variety of festivals, concert halls and clubs in the United States and abroad, including such locales as Russia, Finland, France, Germany, Lithuania, and Estonia. He has worked in a variety of musical settings with such artists as Ted Curson, Talib Kwibey, Guilherme Franco & Nova Bossa Nova, Michael Cochrane, Steve Nelson, Eddie Henderson, Rick Margitza, Gary Burton, Stanley Jordan, Benny Carter, Ralph Peterson, Terence Blanchard, Roscoe Mitchell, the R&B group Tavares, and has performed in the critically acclaimed Off-Broadway production of Dinah Was: The Dinah Washington Musical.
Professor Branker has received fellowships or grants from the National Endowment for the Humanities, Rutgers Institute of Jazz Studies, and Ursinus College. He has appeared as a lecturer for the National Endowment for the Humanities "Paul Robeson Institute" at Rutgers University, the Princeton University Alumni College Seminar, "New Orleans: City of Jazz" (New Orleans, Louisiana), the Plexus Institute, and at Drew University. He has presented research at international conferences of the College Music Society and the International Association of Jazz Educators and has had numerous articles published; ranging in topic from the music of Cuba and its influence on American music to an examination of the blues and jazz in African-American poetry. Mr. Branker holds a Master of Music in Jazz Pedagogy from the University of Miami as well as a Bachelor of Arts in Music and a Certificate in African-American Studies from Princeton University.

Jazz at Princeton University
2003-2004

March 4
University Afro-Groove Ensemble
Café Vivian Jazz Series at the Frist Campus Center
Thursday, 11:30 p.m.

March 10
University Jazz Vespers Ensemble
Jazz Vespers Series at the University Chapel
Wednesday, 8:00 p.m.

April 1
University Hard Bop Ensemble and Fusion Ensemble
Café Vivian Jazz Series at the Frist Campus Center
Thursday, 11:30 p.m.

April 21
University Jazz Vespers Ensemble
Jazz Vespers Series at the University Chapel
Wednesday, 8:00 p.m.

May 1
Ray Vega and His Latin Jazz Sextet
Saturday, 8:00 pm
Richardson Auditorium in Alexander Hall

May 8
University Concert Jazz Ensemble, Jazz Ensemble II, & Afro Groove Ensemble present "A Brazilian Affair: The Influence of Brazilian Music on Jazz" featuring guest saxophonist Don Braden, percussionist Guilherme Franco and the World Premiere of a commissioned work for big band composed by saxophonist Bob Mintzer
Saturday, 8:00 pm
Richardson Auditorium in Alexander Hall