The Commission Project

New Music Composed by Jimmy Heath, Bob Mintzer, Michael Mossman, and Ralph Bowen for the Princeton University Jazz Program

with the Princeton University Concert Jazz Ensemble and Jazz Composers Collective directed by Anthony B.J. Branker

featuring the world premiere of Ralph Bowen’s "Little Miss B"

Saturday, May 13, 2006 at 8:00 pm
Richardson Auditorium in Alexander Hall
Princeton University

Funding for "Little Miss B" was made possible by a generous grant from The Commission Project, bow of Sound Productions Ltd. and the Princeton University Jazz Program.
Program

Jazz Composers Collective

Dream Up................................................................. Dean Reynolds
If.................................................................................. Puris Branker
Ruminations.................................................................... Julia Brav

with Bryan Carrott

Transient Self.............................................................. Ben Wasserman

with Bryan Carrott

BlueYellow Dances.................................................... Chuck Staab

with Bryan Carrott

D.J. Sneaky Boom....................................................... Theo Beers

--- intermission ---

Concert Jazz Ensemble

Looking Back (from The John Coltrane Suite)............ Michael Mossman
For the Love Of......................................................... Jimmy Heath
Crystal Angel............................................................ Anthony Branker

with the Jazz Composers Collective

March Majestic.......................................................... Bob Mintzer

with Bryan Carrott

Little Miss B.............................................................. Ralph Bowen

with Bryan Carrott

JAZZ COMPOSERS COLLECTIVE

Audrey Wright, alto saxophone
Ben Wasserman, tenor saxophone
Julia Brav, Piano
Chris Huckfield, piano
Dean Reynolds, bass
Theo Beers, bass
Chuck Staab, drums

CONCERT JAZZ ENSEMBLE

Saxophones
alto 1: Audrey Wright
alto 2: Stephen Hammer
tenor 1: Robert W. Enoch
tenor 2: Anthony Badaracco
baritone: Richa Gawande

Trumpets
lead: Andrew Sowa
2nd: Joseph Codega
3rd: Justin Pines
4th: Peter Ketcham-Colwill
5th: Paul Markoff

Rhythm Section
piano: Julia Brav+
bass: Dean Reynolds*
drums: Chuck Staab*

Flutes
1st: Ben Smolen
2nd: Lindsay Brillson
3rd: Dana Berkowitz

* Certificate Program in Musical Performance
+ 2006 New Jersey IAJE Intercollegiate All State Jazz Ensemble

Bryan Carrott

Renowned jazz vibraphonist & mallet percussionist, pianist, and vocalist Bryan Carrott has recorded and performed throughout Europe, Japan, and the United States with such artists as David "Fathead" Newman, Ralph Peterson’s Fo’tet, Henry Threadgill, Muhal Richard Abrams, Sam Rivers, Don Byron, Dave Douglas, Herbie Mann, Cassandra Wilson, John Lurie & the Lounge Lizards, Greg Osby, Tom Harrell, Bennie Wallace, and the Spirit of Life Ensemble. He has also been featured as soloist with Germany’s WDR Orchestra conducted by Gunther Schuller and has been recognized by Down Beat magazine’s International Critics’ Poll for a number of years. Bryan has received several grants from Meet the Composer and has been featured in several film soundtracks, including "3 A.M." with Branford Marsalis. As a clinician for Ross Mallet Instruments, he has lead educational performances for the International Association for Jazz Education International Conference, PASIC, Berklee College of Music Percussion Festival, Rutgers University, and Day of Percussion in Sayville, New York. Bryan is currently Coordinator of Percussion at Five Towns College in Dix Hills, New York.
The Commission Project

Beginning in 2003, the Princeton University Jazz Program has worked in collaboration with The Commission Project (TCP). TCP is one of the most active music commissioning organizations in the country. It provides funding for composer’s original titles for professional and school orchestras, bands, and chamber ensembles of all genres. Currently, TCP sponsors composer residencies in metropolitan areas across the country and into Canada. Jazz composers who have received TCP commissions to write for the University Concert Jazz Ensemble include Jimmy Heath, Bob Mintzer, Michael Philip Mossman, and Ralph Bowen. Randy Bauer, a recent Ph.D. recipient and graduate of Princeton’s composition program was named the recipient of an Honorable Mention Award in the 2004-2005 ASCAP Foundation Young Jazz Composers Award Competition for his composition, “Wide-Eyed Wonder.” This work was also made possible thanks to a commission from The Commission Project® and was premiered by the University Concert Jazz Ensemble in 2003.

Princeton University Jazz Program

Throughout the years, the Princeton University Jazz Program under the direction of Anthony D.J. Branker has sought to educate and expose the university community to the artistic and historical significance of jazz by presenting artists and repertoire that are representative of the wide spectrum of styles and conceptual approaches found throughout the music’s evolution. Presently, the ensemble program features two 17-piece big bands and an ever changing variety of small groups, which have included the Jazz Composers Collective, Wayne Shorter Ensemble, Ellington/Strayhorn Ensemble, Jazz Messengers Ensemble, Afro-Groove Ensemble, Fusion Ensemble, John Coltrane Ensemble, Horace Silver 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, Jazztet, and the Jazz Vespers Ensemble. Qualified students have the opportunity to pursue further studies in jazz performance through the Music Department’s Certificate Program in Musical Performance.

In an effort to provide ensemble members with the opportunity to learn from recognized jazz masters, Princeton’s national award-winning jazz program has been fortunate to sponsor master class residencies and feature its ensembles in concert performances 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, Don Braden, Jacky Terrasson, Jonny King, Walt Weiskopf, Valery Ponomarev, Bryan Carrott, Michael Philip Mossman, Rick Margitza, Ralph Bowen, Mark Gross, Clifford Adams, Jeffery Smith, Guiblarme Franco, and Winston Byrd. The program has also been fortunate to feature Dr. Billy Taylor, Victor Lewis, Bill Frisell, Fred Hersch, Roy Hargrove, Hugh Masakela, James Williams, Craig Handy, Conrad Herwig, Jeremy Pelt, Gene Bertoncini, Jim Black, Bruce Williams, and Wilson “Willie Tee” Turbinton as guest lecturers in master class situations.

Over the years, the award-winning Concert Jazz Ensemble has dedicated itself to the performance of the historically significant music of Duke Ellington and Billy Strayhorn. They have presented such works as: The Far East Suite with the Juilliard Jazz Orchestra; Ellington’s extended orchestral composition, A Tone Parallel to Harlem with the Delaware Valley Philharmonic Orchestra and the Princeton University Orchestra; New World A Comin’ 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; 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 Intercollegiate Jazz Festival. Recently, the University Afro-Groove Ensemble was featured at the 2004 New Jersey Music Educators Association (NJMEA) State Conference and at the 4th Annual North Texas Jazz Festival with two members of the group receiving “Outstanding Soloist” awards.

**The Conductor**

Anthony D.J. Branker is Senior Lecturer in Music and Conductor of University Jazz Ensembles at Princeton University, where he also serves as Associate Director of the Program in Musical Performance. In 2005, he was named a U.S. Fulbright Scholar and visiting professor at the Estonian Academy of Music in Tallinn, Estonia. Mr. Branker has also served as a member of the jazz faculty of the Manhattan School of Music; Professor of Music and Director of Jazz Studies at Hunter College of the City University of New York; Chairperson of the Department of Music at Ursinus College, and Instrumental Music Coordinator and Head of Jazz Studies for the New Jersey Summer Arts Institute at Rutgers University. He 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, the International Association of Jazz Educators Award for Outstanding Service to Jazz Education, and was the recipient of the 2004 Alumni Award presented by the Association of Black Princeton Alumni.

As a composer, Branker has received composition prizes, commissions, served as composer-in-residence, and has had his music featured in performance in Russia, France, Finland, Estonia, Germany, and Lithuania. His most recent CD project *Spirit Songs* was recently released internationally on the Sounds of Sound record label and features Branker’s ensemble ‘Ascent’ in a program of eight original works with performances by alto & soprano saxophonist Antonio Hart, tenor & soprano saxophonist Ralph Bowen, trombonist Clifford Adams, pianist Jonny King, bassist John Benitez, and drummer Ralph Peterson. 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 also performed at a variety of festivals, concert halls and clubs in the United States and abroad.

Mr. Branker has appeared as guest jazz conductor with the Jugend Sinfonie Orchester (Bremen, Germany), Kiryat Ono Symphonic Youth Band (Israel), Fukui Junior Orchestra (Fukui, Japan), Estonian Academy of Music Big Band (Tallinn, Estonia), New Jersey IAJE Intercolligate and High School All State Jazz Ensembles, and has led performances that have featured the Princeton University Orchestra, Chapel Choir, Glee Club/Concert Choir, and Gospel Ensemble. While at Princeton, Mr. Branker has directed two national award-winning jazz groups, including the Monk/Mingus Ensemble, winner of the Down Beat magazine Student Music Award for “Best Jazz Instrumental Group,” and Ensemble X, recipient of a 2003 Down Beat music award for “Outstanding Performance.”

While serving as a U.S Fulbright Scholar in Estonia, Professor Branker taught courses in jazz composition and jazz history, in addition to conducting the conservatory big band, Jazz Composers Ensemble, and the Jazz Messengers Combo. During his stay, he also appeared as a guest lecturer for the Department of Pop & Jazz Music at Helsinki Polytechnic Stadia in Helsinki, Finland; presented two US Embassy sponsored concerts with the Estonian Academy of Music Jazz Messengers Combo, and gave master classes for students in the Pop/Jazz Program at Viljandi Kultuurikadeemia Muusikamajas as well as the Kuressaare Music Academy on the Estonian island of Saaremaa.

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 also been featured in performance with the Delaware Valley Philharmonic Orchestra as narrator of Aaron Copland’s “Lincoln Portrait.” Professor Branker is a member of the board of directors of the New Jersey Chapter of the International Association for Jazz Education and the Princeton Symphony Orchestra, in addition to serving on the advisory board of MIMA Music, Inc.

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. He is currently working towards his Doctorate in Education at Columbia University’s Teachers College.
Funding for Ralph Bowen’s composition “Little Miss B” was made possible by a very generous grant from The Commission Project®, Sons of Sound Productions, and the Princeton University Jazz Program.

The Commission Project®

The Commission Project (TCP) is a non-profit organization that fosters creativity through music education by commissioning original music and producing workshops and composer-in-residence programs in schools nationwide. TCP’s composer-in-residence programs enrich existing school curricula by involving students directly in the creative process and establishing exploratory forums, which spark creativity and inventiveness. From the outset, the composer involves the students in the creative journey, making artistic decisions and incorporating their input in the compositional process.

Since 1994, TCP has benefited over 23,000 students by commissioning 112 composers to write more than 357 pieces for student ensembles, with over 84 compositions published; more than 31 are commercially recorded and released. Currently, The Commission Project is producing 40 residencies in metropolitan areas across the United States and Canada. TCP is transforming the way youth are being educated, helping students discover the excitement and rewards of creation. For more information, please contact:

The Commission Project
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Rochester, NY 14625
(585) 385-6440
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You are cordially invited to New York’s Iridium Jazz Club on Wednesday, May 17 to celebrate the release of the Anthony Branker & Ascent CD – Spid Songs (Sons of Sound)

Sets begin at 8:00 and 10:00 p.m.

The Iridium is located at 1650 Broadway and 51st Street in Manhattan

For more information, call the Box Office at (212) 582 – 2121

I Hope to See You There!!!
- Anthony Branker ®