The Princeton University Jazz Program presents the

Princeton University Concert Jazz Ensemble

&

Jazz Composers Collective

directed by

Anthony D. J. Branker

performing the music of
Renee Rosnes, Bob Mintzer, Bobby Watson, Horace Silver,
and students in the university jazz program

Saturday, May 10, 2008
at 8:00 pm

Richardson Auditorium in Alexander Hall
Princeton University
Program

Jazz Composers Collective

Heliocentric
Solitary Dance
To Be Touched
The Ballad of Mercer Gross

Julia Brav
Allison Wood
Anthony Branker
Ben Wasserman

intermission

Concert Jazz Ensemble

Ancestors
Wheel Within a Wheel
The Touch of Your Lips
Adjustment
Elvin’s Mambo

Renee Rosnes
Bobby Watson
Ray Noble
Horace Silver

arr. Michael Mossman
arr. Michael Abene
arr. Matt Harris
Bob Mintzer
JAZZ COMPOSERS COLLECTIVE

Robbie Spackey – alto saxophone
Ben Wasserman – tenor saxophone
Anand Krishnamurthy – guitar
Julia Brav – piano
Allison Wood – bass
Will Kain – drums

CONCERT JAZZ ENSEMBLE

Saxophones

alto 1: Stephen Hammer
alto 2: James Krendel-Clark
Alex Bourque
Nicholas Antoine
tenor 1: Robert W. Enoch
tenor 2: Andrew Huelsenbeck
baritone: Richa Gawande

Trombones

lead: Matt Rich
2nd: Mark Nagy
3rd: Mia Tsui
4th: Daniel Jaffe
Iannis Mountzjaris

Trumpets

lead: Andrew Sowa
2nd: Joseph Codega
3rd: Peter Ketchum-Colwill
4th: Will Livengood
Harrison Frye

Rhythm Section

piano: Julia Brav

guitar: Zack Wieder

bass: Allison Wood

Drums: Dean Reynolds

Tyler Pines

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. Students involved in jazz performance have numerous opportunities to concertize, participate in master classes, study privately, and to pursue independent projects. They also have the opportunity to participate in academic courses from the music department curriculum that encourage the study of the historical, social, theoretical, stylistic, and creative issues that pertain to the jazz idiom. Princeton’s jazz program, in partnership with the Princeton Public Library, was the proud recipient of a 2006-2007 Looking At: Jazz, America’s Art Form grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities in collaboration with Jazz at Lincoln Center, the American Library Association and Re: New Media. The Looking At: Jazz project series was dedicated to exploring the cultural and social history of jazz through the presentation of six compelling documentary films, accompanied by viewing and discussion programs, essays by eminent scholars, and live performances for the community that featured the Princeton University Concert Jazz Ensemble, Swingtet, and Afro-Latin Ensemble. Recently, the University Jazz Program received a $4 million gift that will enhance the study and performance of jazz at Princeton, significantly expanding the University’s ability to support performances and develop innovative research and teaching in this uniquely American and broadly influential art form.

Presently, the ensemble program features one 17-piece big band and an ever changing variety of small groups, which have included Jazz Composers Collective, Wayne Shorter Ensemble, Crossing Borders Improvisational Music Ensemble, Afro-Latin Ensemble, Jazz Messengers Ensemble, Ornette Coleman Ensemble, Swingtet, Fusion Ensemble, Ellington/Strayhorn Ensemble, Afro-Groove Ensemble, John Coltrane Ensemble, Horace Silver Ensemble, Ensemble X, New Orleans Ensemble, Jazz Saxophone Quartet, Art Blakey Ensemble, Avant Garde 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, Conrad Herwig, 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, Guillerme Franco, Renato Thoms, and Winston Byrd. The program has also been fortunate to feature Dr. Billy Taylor, Omar Sosa, Victor Lewis, Bill Frisell, Fred Hersch, Roy Hargrove, Hugh Masakela, James Williams, Craig Handy, 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 and New Orleans 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 Edvard 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, Conrad Herwig, Ted Curson, Ralph Peterson, Jonny King and Walt Weiskopf.

Princeton offers a number of outstanding jazz performance groups. The University Jazz Composers Collective recently traveled to Estonia for a series of concerts sponsored by the Department of State of the United States of America, the U.S. Embassy in Estonia, and the Estonian Academy of Music. The ensemble presented three concerts, including a performance at the Estonian Academy of Music in Tallinn, where they premiered The Eesti Jazz Suite composed by the group’s director, Anthony D.J. Branker during his fall 2005 residency as a U.S. Fulbright Scholar and visiting professor of music at the academy of music. The University Jazz Composers Collective also gave performances at the Geneva Night Club in the city of Narva, which was recorded for broadcast on Estonian National Radio, and at Theatre No. 99 in Tallinn where they featured two sets of original music created by students in the ensemble and were joined by Estonian jazz vocalist Kadri Voorand and guitarist Jaak Soolär, chair of the jazz department at the academy of music. The Jazz Composers Collective was also featured in performance on Estonian National Television (ETV). In addition, the University Jazz Composers Collective will travel to Hong Kong, China for a series of performances in March of 2008.

In 1999, the University Monk/Mingus Ensemble was named winner of Down Beat magazine’s Student Music Award for “Best College Jazz Instrumental Group” and Ensemble X was selected by Down Beat as the winner of “Outstanding Performance” honors in the jazz instrumental group category in 2003. The jazz program received its third national prize from Down Beat in 2007 when pianist Julia Bray was awarded “Outstanding Performance” honors in the “Best College Jazz Soloist” category. In addition, Ms. Bray was selected to the International Association for Jazz Education (IAJE) Sisters in Jazz Collegiate All-Star Quintet and performed with the group at the IAJE 35th Annual Conference in Toronto, Canada from January 9-13, 2008.

The University 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. 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. Recently, composition graduate student Randy Bauer 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 created thanks to a commission from The Commission Project and was premiered by the University Concert Jazz Ensemble in 2003. In addition, the University Jazztet has performed at the Trenton2Nite Women in Jazz Festival, the Princeton Jazz East Jazz Festival, as well as for numerous Jazz-in-the-Schools programs in the greater Princeton area.

Princeton’s jazz program has also produced eleven recording projects over the past eighteen years, which include Blue/Yellow Dances (Jazz Composers Collective), Expanding Horizons (Jazz Composers Collective), Yesternow: The Princeton University Jazz Program
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 and Theatre in Tallinn, Estonia. Professor Branker has also served on the faculties of the Manhattan School of Music, Rutgers University Mason Gross School of the Arts, Hunter College of the City University of New York, Ursinus College, the New Jersey Summer Arts Institute, and was visiting lecturer and composer for the Socrates/Erasmus Intensive Programme in cooperation with the European Union, the Association of Baltic Academies of Music, and the Estonian Academy of Music and Theatre. 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 conductor, Professor Branker has had the opportunity to work with such artists as Clark Terry, Phil Woods, Slide Hampton, Jimmy Heath, Jon Faddis, Conrad Herwig, 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 Carroll, Michael Philip Mossman, Rick Margitza, Ralph Bowen, Mark Gross, Clifford Adams, Jeffery Smith, Guilherme Franco, Benny Powell, Michael Cochrane, and Patience Higgins. In addition, he has collaborated with the Juilliard Jazz Orchestra and conductors Wycliffe Gordon, Loren Schoenberg, and Cecil Bridgewater on joint big band performances of Duke Ellington and Billy Strayhorn's Far East Suite and Ellington's New Orleans Suite at McCarter Theatre in Princeton. Mr. Branker has appeared as conductor with the Jugend Sinfonie Orchester (Bremen, Germany), Israel's Kiryat Ono Symphonic Youth Band, Japan's Fukui Junior Orchestra, Estonian Academy of Music Big Band (Tallinn, Estonia), Hunter Jazz Repertory Orchestra (New York), Rutgers University Mason Gross School of the Arts Jazz Ensemble, New Jersey Intercollegiate All State Jazz Ensemble, and the New Jersey Region II All State Jazz Ensemble. Recently Professor Branker was selected to conduct the 2008 New Jersey All State High School Jazz Ensemble in performances at NJPAC in Newark and at the New Jersey Education Association Convention in Atlantic City. While at Princeton, Professor Branker has led performances that have featured the Princeton University Orchestra, Chapel Choir, Glee Club, and Gospel Ensemble, and 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.” In addition, Princeton’s Jazz Composers Collective has traveled to Estonia for a series of concerts sponsored by the Department of State of the United States of America, the U.S. Embassy in Estonia, and the Estonian Academy of Music, and to Hong Kong, China to perform at the Vibe Jazz Club.

Professor Branker has received composition prizes, commissions, served as composer-in-residence, and has had his music featured in performance at the Pori International Jazz Festival (Finland), St. Petersburg International Jazz Festival (Russia), Kaunas International Jazz Festival (Lithuania), Mt. Fuji International Jazz Festival (Japan), Estonia International Jazz Festival (Estonia), JVC Jazz Festival (New York); concert and club appearances in China, France, and Germany; as well as in performance at such venues as the Iridium Jazz Club, Sweet Basil Jazz Club, The Five Spot, New York's Symphony Space, the Fez under the Time Café, Trumpets Jazz Club, Estonian Academy of Music and Theatre, and the Schomberg Center for Research in Black Culture. During his residency at the Estonian Academy of Music, Branker composed The Eesti Jazz Suite, a five-movement work inspired by the culture and people of Estonia. This work was premiered in November of 2006 at the academy of music as part of the concert tour of the Princeton University Jazz Composers Collective, which was sponsored by the Department of State of the United States, the U.S. Embassy in Estonia, and the Estonian Academy of Music. Professor Branker also leads the group Ascent, a jazz collective formed in 2004 dedicated to the performance of original new music by its founder, which has featured some of the most significant jazz artists working today, including Steve Wilson, Ralph Bowen, Antonio Hart, Bryan Carroll, Clifford Adams, Conrad Herwig, Jonny King, Belden Bullock, John Benitez, Ralph Peterson Jr., Renato Thoms, and Wilby Fletcher. The ensemble's first CD project Anthony Branker & Ascent: Spirit Songs was released internationally in 2006 on the Sons of Sound.
record label and was cited by the Jazz Journalists Association as one of the "Top 10 new jazz releases for 2006" with the composition "Imani (Faith)" being named one of the "Top 10 best new compositions of the year." This recording is available through Amazon.com, Barnes & Noble, Borders Books & Music, Tower Records, J&R Music, Best Buy, and iTunes. The group's second CD, Blessings, is scheduled to be released in 2008.

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 appeared at the Pori International Jazz Festival (Finland); Leningrad/St. Petersburg International Jazz Festival (Russia); Kaunas International Jazz Festival (Lithuania); Estonia International Jazz Festival (Tartu, Estonia); JVC Jazz Festival at Sweet Basil (New York); Panasonic Village Jazz Festival (New York); as well as jazz club performances in France, Finland, Germany, Russia, and New York. In addition, he has worked in a variety of musical settings with such artists as Ted Curson, Talib Kibwe, Guilherme Franco & Nova Bossa Nova, Steve Nelson, Michael Cochrane, Calvin Hill, Eddie Henderson, Stanley Jordan, Benny Carter, Ralph Peterson, Terence Blanchard, Big John Patton, Roscoe Mitchell, Rick Margitza, Gary Burton, 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 J. William Fulbright Foreign Scholarship Board/Council for International Exchange of Scholars, the National Endowment for the Humanities, Rutgers Institute of Jazz Studies, Princeton University, and Ursinus College. He has appeared as a lecturer for the Department of Pop & Jazz Music at Helsinki Polytechnic Stadia in Helsinki, Finland; Kuressaare Music Academy on the Estonian island of Saaremaa; the Pop/Jazz Program at Viljandi Kultuuriaakadeemia Muusikamajas in Viljandi, Estonia; National Endowment for the Humanities Paul Robeson Institute at Rutgers University; "Teachers as Scholars" program at Princeton University; Princeton University Alumni College Seminar "New Orleans: City of Jazz" in New Orleans, Louisiana; the Plexus Institute; Drew University; and has served as program scholar for the Looking At: Jazz, America's Art Form film viewing and discussion series at the Princeton Public Library. 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 Education from Columbia University, Teachers College; a Master of Music in Jazz Pedagogy from the University of Miami; and a Bachelor of Arts in Music and Certificate in African-American Studies from Princeton University. He is currently working towards his Doctorate in Education at Columbia University, Teachers College.