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.” 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, Roseme 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 Stadion in Helsinki, Finland; Kuressaaare Music Academy on the Estonian island of Saaremaa; the Pop/Jazz Program at Viljandi Kultuurikooli Muusikakoolas 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. He has also been featured in performance with the Delaware Valley Philharmonic Orchestra as narrator of Aaron Copland’s “Lincoln Portrait.”

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 completing his Doctorate in Education at Columbia University, Teachers College.
Program

Concert Jazz Ensemble

I Love You ........................................... Cole Porter
   arr. Les Hooper

A Nightingale Sang in Berkeley Square ................. Manning Sherwin
   Eric Maschitz
   arr. Ed Neumeister

Just Friends ......................................... Raymond Davies
   John Klenner
   Sam M. Lewis
   arr. Bill Holman

Darn That Dream ..................................... Eddie DeLange
   James Van Heusen
   arr. Matt Harris

with Amelia Wells, vocals

Who Can I Turn To? .................................. Leslie Bricusse
   Anthony Newley
   arr. Matt Harris

with Amelia Wells, vocals

Almost Like Being in Love ............................. Alan Jay Lerner
   Frederick Lowe
   arr. Lennie Niehaus

with Amelia Wells, vocals

Secret Love ........................................... Sammy Fain
   Paul Francis Webster
   arr. Vince Mendoza

with Amelia Wells, vocals

It Don’t Mean A Thing If It Ain’t Got That Swing .... Duke Ellington
   arr. Matt Harris

with Amelia Wells, vocals

CONCERT JAZZ ENSEMBLE

Saxophones
   alto 1: Stephen Hammer
   alto 2: James Krendel-Clarke
   tenor 1: Kevin Siu
   tenor 2: Kenichi Kaneko
   baritone: Andrew Huelsenbeck

with Amelia Wells, vocals

arr. Les Hooper

arr. Ed Neumeister

arr. Matt Harris

Trumpets
   lead: Peter Ketchum-Colwill
   2nd: Will Livengood
   3rd: Joseph Codega
   4th: Gregory Ketchum-Colwill
   5th: Harrison Frye

with Amelia Wells, vocals

arr. Lennie Niehaus

Rhythm Section
   piano: Daniel Berry
   vibes: Jackson Greenberg
   bass: Allison Wood
   drums: Tyler Pines

arr. Lennie Niehaus

arr. Matt Harris

arr. Matt Harris

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. 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, Crossing Borders Improvisational Music Ensemble, Pat Metheny Ensemble, New Voices Collective, Miles Davis Ensemble, Wayne Shorter 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, 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, Guilherme 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, Joanne Brackeen, Roy Hargrove, Hugh Masekela, James Williams, Craig Handy, Jeremy Pelt, Gene Bertoncini, Jim Black, Bruce Williams, and Wilson “Willie Tee” Turbington 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 Choir; 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.

Between 2003 and 2006, Princeton’s jazz program worked in collaboration with The Commission Project (TCP) from Rochester, New York to present new works for big band. Jazz composers who have received TCP commissions to write for the University Concert Jazz Ensemble have included Jimmy Heath, Bob Mintzer, Michael Philip Mossman, and Ralph Bowen. Of these commissioned works, Bob Mintzer’s “March Majestic” has been made available through Alfred Publishing and appears on recordings by the Bob Mintzer Big Band (Old School, New Lessons) and the Yellowjackets (Altered State), and Michael Mossman’s three-movement “John Coltrane Suite” has been performed by university and conservatory jazz programs throughout the United States and is published by RGM. Randy Bauer, a recent Ph.D. recipient and graduate of Princeton’s composition program was named the winner 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. In 2007, through funding from Sons of Sound Productions, the jazz program commissioned trombonist Conrad Herwig to compose the Afro-Latin influenced “Reflections of a Man Facing South,” a suite that was premiered by the Concert Jazz Ensemble.

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 Sooõir, 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 traveled to Hong Kong, China in March of 2008 for a series of performances, including a night at the Vibe Jazz Club, and the University Crossing Borders Improvisational Music Ensemble collaborated with the experimental jazz quartet Amparo from the Royal College of Music in Stockholm, Sweden in concert at Princeton University.

In 1999, the University Menk/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 Brav was awarded “Outstanding Performance” honors in the “Best College Jazz Soloist” category. In addition, Ms. Brav 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 and at the Kennedy Center in Washington, DC.

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
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The Conductor

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