The Voice of the Jazz Composer:
The Music of Duke Ellington

with the Princeton University Concert Jazz Ensemble
directed by Anthony D.J. Branker

Saturday
October 17
2009
at 8:00 pm

Richardson Auditorium in Alexander Hall
Princeton University
Program

Concert Jazz Ensemble

Happy-Go-Lucky Local
(from "Deep South Suite")............ Duke Ellington

Half The Fun
(aka Lately)................................ Duke Ellington

Billy Strayhorn

All Heart
(from "Portrait of Ella Fitzgerald")..... Duke Ellington

Billy Strayhorn

Main Stem.................................. Duke Ellington

Latin American Sunshine
(from "Latin American Suite")......... Duke Ellington

Frère Monk.................................. Duke Ellington

-Intermission-

Diminuendo and Crescendo in Blue ...... Duke Ellington

Mood Indigo.................................. Duke Ellington

Harlem Speaks ................................ Duke Ellington

Sophisticated Lady.......................... Duke Ellington
arr. Nick Bouloukos

Moon Over Cuba............................. Juan Tizol

Perdido...................................... H.J. Lengsfelder,
Ervin Drake, Juan Tizol
arr. Duke Ellington
CONCERT JAZZ ENSEMBLE

**Saxophones**
- alto 1: Alex Bourque (lead)
- alto 2: Ethan Goldstein (2nd)
- tenor 1: Kevin Sun (3rd)
- tenor 2: William Colby Pines (4th)
- baritone: Michael Bishop

**Trombones**
- Peter Gustafson
- Christopher Kennedy
- Mark Nagy
- Austin Holliman

**Trumpets**
- Kevin Halenda (lead)
- Will Livengood (2nd)
- Harrison Frye (3rd)
- Gregory Ketchum-Colwill (4th)

**Rhythm Section**
- Jason Weinreb (piano)
- Christina Laurenzi (guitar)
- Allison Wood (bass)
- Eric Weiner (drums)
- Kevin Laskey (drums)
- Will Kain (drums)

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 Jazz.

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 Thom, and Winston Byrd. The program has also been fortunate to feature Dr. Billy Taylor, Maria Schneider, 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 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.
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 Söers 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. Recently, the Concert Jazz Ensemble collaborated with the University Sinfonia and the vocal ensemble Fuma Sacra to present the world premiere of “In Another Time,” a five-movement work by composer Laurie Altman.

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 Estonian 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 Soollä, 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 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 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, D.C.

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 USA. 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 USA. 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. In addition, the University Jazztet has performed at the TrentonNite Women in Jazz Festival, the Princeton JazzFest Jazz Festival, as well as for numerous Jazz-in-the-Schools programs in the greater Princeton area. 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, Swinget, and Afro-Latin Ensemble.

Princeton’s jazz program has also produced eleven recording...

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 2003, 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 Wyckliffe Gordon, Loren Schoenberg, and Cecil Bridgewater on joint big band performances of Duke Ellington and Billy Strayhorn’s *Four 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 Fukuju 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, and the New Jersey Intensive Programme College of All State Jazz Ensemble. Recently Professor Branker conducted the 2008 New Jersey All State High School Jazz Ensemble in performances at NIPAC 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/Concert Choir, Sinfonia, 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.

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, China, Japan, and Lithuania. During his residency at the Estonian Academy of Music and Theatre, Branker composed *The Ecst of 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 Ballock, 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.” Origin Records, the 2009 JazzWeek “Record Label of the Year,” released the group’s second CD, *Blessings*, which was named to the First Round in the 52nd Annual