

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
alto 2: Ethan Goldstein
tenor 1: Kevin Sun
tenor 2: William Colby Pines
baritone: Michael Bishop

Trombones

lead: Peter Gustafson
2nd: Christopher Kennedy
3rd: Mark Nagy
4th: Austin Holliman

Trumpets

lead: Kevin Halenda
2nd: Will Livengood
3rd: Harrison Frye
4th: Gregory Ketchum-Colwill

Rhythm Section

piano: Jason Weinreb
guitar: Christina Laurenzi
bass: Allison Wood
Eric Weiser
drums: Kevin Laskey
Will Kain

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, 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 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. 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 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 Sooäär, 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, 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 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. In addition, the **University Jazztet** has performed at the Trenton2Nite Women in Jazz Festival, the Princeton JazzFeast 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, Swingtet, and Afro-Latin Ensemble.

Princeton's jazz program has also produced eleven recording

projects over the past twenty years, which include *Blue/Yellow Dances* (Jazz Composers Collective), *Expanding Horizons* (Jazz Composers Collective), *Yesternow: The Princeton University Jazz Program 1989-2004* compilation CD, *It's All About the Groove* (Afro-Groove Ensemble & Fusion Ensemble), *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).

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 Carrott, 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*, and the *New Jersey Intercollegiate All State Jazz Ensemble*. Recently Professor Branker conducted 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/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 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 Carrott, 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." 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