The Princeton University Program in Jazz Studies presents

Pianist/Composer

Orrin Evans

performing with the
Princeton University Concert Jazz Ensemble

directed by
Dr. Anthony D.J. Branker

plus
The Orrin Evans Quartet

featuring pianist Orrin Evans
saxophonist Caleb Wheeler Curtis
bassist Essiet Essiet
drummer Mark Whitfield Jr.

Saturday
May 7, 2016
at 8:00 p.m.

Richardson Auditorium
in Alexander Hall
Princeton University
Welcome...

On behalf of the Department of Music, I am delighted to welcome you to our concert. Composition, performance, and scholarship—these are the central activities of the undergraduates, graduate students, and faculty in the Department of Music. At Princeton, we believe that composers and music historians do their best work in an environment in which performance is highly regarded, and that performers flourish when their passion for music is supplemented by a deep intellectual engagement with the works they perform.

We are especially pleased to announce that our valued studio instructors are now officially part of the faculty, and that our majors and certificate students have the option—for the very first time in the history of the department—to receive academic credit for their lessons. You will hear the results of these endeavors in the superb performances by our department ensembles (Princeton University Orchestra, Princeton University Opera Theater, Glee Club and Chamber Choir, Jazz Ensembles, Princeton Laptop Orchestra, Saudia, and Wind Ensemble) and our many student-run organizations, which include a chamber orchestra, an opera company, and chamber music collective—all of this in addition to a rigorous academic schedule!

We urge you to get to know all the corners of the Department of Music. Come to the Princeton Sound Kitchen and hear new works by our graduate and faculty composers; hear the world's greatest musicians on the Princeton University Concerts series; take advantage of the many pre-concert lectures and conferences sponsored by our musicologists; Sunday afternoons are a perfect time to come hear the Richardson Chamber Players, the resident ensemble of our performance faculty, or catch some late night jazz on Thursdays with the Jazz @ Cafe Vranian series. If you have not yet had the opportunity to attend the electrifying performances of 50 Percussion, Edward T. Cone Performers-in-Residence, you are in for a treat!

With all of this activity, we are particularly looking forward to expanding into our new building in fall of 2017! Stay tuned... plans for an exciting inaugural year are underway. We look forward to seeing you at our next Music Department event!

Wendy Heller
Professor, and Chair Department of Music

Program

CONCERT JAZZ ENSEMBLE

(It's Just) Talk.............................................................. Pat Metheny
arr. Robert Curnow

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

Crystal Angel......................................................... Anthony Branker
arr. Ralph Bowen

Forgotten Peoples..................................................... Anthony Branker
with pianist Orrin Evans
arr. Ralph Bowen

Maestra................................................................. Eric Revis
with pianist Orrin Evans
arr. Laura Kahle

The Art of War......................................................... Ralph Peterson
with pianist Orrin Evans
arr. Todd Bashore

∞ INTERMISSION ∞

Orrin Evans Quartet

Selections to be announced from stage

Orrin Evans – piano
Caleb Wheeler Curtis – saxophone
Eviet Essiet – bass
Mark Whizfield Jr. – drums
TONIGHT’S ARTISTS

Orrin Evans

Since moving to New York in the winter of 1995, Orrin Evans has been recognized as one of the most distinctive and inventive pianists of his generation. In a short span of time, he has earned the titles of pianist, composer, bandleader, teacher, producer and arranger. The New York Times has described the pianist as "...a poised artist with an impressive template of ideas at his command," a quality that has undoubtedly assisted in keeping Orrin at the forefront of the music scene.

Growing up in a musical city like Philadelphia was extremely important to the early development of Orrin Evans' career. Philadelphia afforded him the opportunity to study informally with such artists/mentors as Trudy Pitts, Shirley Scott, Mickey Roker, Bobby Durham, Edgar Bateman, Sid Simmons, and formally with William Whitaker, Jack Carr, and Charles Pettaway. In 1993, after attending the Girard Academic Music Program, Orrin was accepted into the Mason Gross School of the Arts at Rutgers University. While attending Mason Gross, some of his teachers included Kenny Barron, Joanne Brackeen, Ralph Bowen, and Ted Dunbar. Orrin credits them for instilling in him the importance of the fundamentals of jazz as well as the necessity of listening to and living the music.

After moving to New York in August of 1996, Orrin was invited to join Bobby Watson's band Horizon on their European tour. His recording and performing resume includes work with such artists as Wallace Roney, Mos Def, Common, Pharoah Sanders, Antonio Hart, Carmen Lundy, Ralph Peterson, Ralph Bowen, The Mingus Big Band, Roy Hargrove, Nicholas Payton, Branford Marsalis, Gary Bartz, Eddie Henderson, Sean Jones, Tim Warfield, Ravi Coltrane, Robin Eubanks, Duane Eubanks, and Dave Douglas.

Orrin's recording career began in 1994 with the release of the self-produced album The Trio featuring bassist Matthew Parrish and drummer Byron Landham. This release can now be found on the Imani Record label under the title Déjà Vu. In 1996, he was introduced to producer and record label owner Gerry Teekens from Criss Cross Records. This relationship afforded Orrin the opportunity to release six critically acclaimed albums for the label. During a hiatus from Criss Cross, Orrin released recordings for the Palmetto Records, Posi-Tone Records, and his own Imani Records label. In 2002, Orrin joined forces with drummer Donald Edwards, vocalist JD Walter, saxophonist Ralph Bowen, and his wife vocalist Dawn Warren to form the band Luvpark. The band recorded the critically acclaimed self-titled album Luvpark and is presently working on the release of their sophomore recording.

As an educator, Mr. Evans spent three years as a teacher at the coveted Germantown...
Friends School where he taught middle school music and conducted three jazz ensembles. He returned to Settlement Music School to teach individual piano lessons, theory lessons and an advanced jazz ensemble. He continues to be a musical commentator, conducting workshops, clinics and master classes both in the United States and abroad, while continuing to record and tour with his own bands.

Lately, Orrin’s greatest joy has been producing projects for other artists like Sean Jones and playing with his own band, which at different times, has included such notables as Ralph Peterson, Jr., Sam Newsome, Ralph Bowen, Nasheet Waits, Reid Anderson, Eric Revis, JD Allen, and Duane Eubanks. The most recent Orrin Evans disc, The Evolution of Oneself featuring bassist Christian McBride and drummer Karriem Riggins, is on the Smoke Sessions Records label and is available through iTunes and Amazon.com.

PRINCETON UNIVERSITY JAZZ PROGRAM

Throughout the years, the Princeton University Jazz Program under the direction of Dr. 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 as well as the music department curriculum that encourage the study of the historical, social, theoretical, stylistic, and creative issues that pertain to the jazz idiom. In 2008, Princeton University received a multi-million dollar gift to enhance the study and performance of jazz, significantly expanding the university’s ability to support performances and develop innovative research and teaching in this uniquely American and broadly influential art form. As a result of this generous contribution to the development of jazz studies at the university, we have been able to establish the Certificate Program in Jazz Studies at Princeton University.


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, Jimmy Heath, Gilberto Gil, Jon Faddis, Conrad Herwig, Oliver Lake, Frank Foster, Benny Carter, Ted Curson, Orrin Evans, Stanley Jordan, Bobby Watson, Bob Mintzer, Ralph Peterson, Steve Nelson, Antonio Hart, Freddie Hendrix, Don Braden, Kendrick Scott, Brice Winston, Fabian Almazan, Joshua Crumbly, Jacky Terrasson, Jonny King, Walt Weiskopf, Valery Ponomarev, Bryan Carroll, Michael Philip Mossman, Rick Margitza, Ralph Bowen, Mark Gross, Jim Ridl, Clifford Adams, Jeffery Smith, Guilherme Franco, Renato Thoms, Marc Bernstein, Alison Crockett, and Winston Byrd. The program has also been fortunate to feature Maria Schneider, Geri Allen, Omar Sosa, David Binney, Victor Lewis, Fabian Almazan, Edward Simon, Matt Penman, Eric Harland, Robin Eubanks, Bill Frisell, Jamie Baum, Fred Hersch, Joanne Brackeen, Dr. Billy Taylor, Roy Hargrove, Hugh Masekela, Barry Miles, Kenny Davis, James Williams, Craig Handy, Jeremy Pelt, Gene Bertoncini, Jim Black, Bruce Williams, Scott Lee, Bruce Barth, Eddie Allen, Alison Crockett, The Free ‘tallinn Trio with Jaak Sooäär/Anto Pett/Anne-Liis Poll, The Respect Sextet, Artur Majewski, Kadri Voorand and Her Trio.
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 Edward Grieg’s “Peer Gynt Suites Nos. 1 & 2.” Princeton’s jazz groups have also undertaken a number of stylistically diverse and challenging projects in concert programming. They have presented Lalo Schifrin’s “Gillespiana Suite” written for trumpeter Dizzy Gillespie, as well as such programs as “Hotter Than That: Louis Armstrong and the Early Years of Jazz”—featuring music from Armstrong’s Hot Five and Hot Seven Recordings, Jelly Roll Morton and Fletcher Henderson; “Jazz and the Latin Tinge”—spotlighting classic works from the Latin jazz orchestras of Mario Bauza, Dizzy Gillespie, Chico O’Farrill, as well as the Brazilian and Afro-Cuban based compositions of Milton Nascimento, Arturo Sandoval, Duke Ellington, and Charles Mingus; “Jazz Meets the Symphony Orchestra” with the Princeton University Orchestra featuring works by Duke Ellington, McCoy Tyner, and Clare Fischer, with orchestral arrangements by Todd Beane and Anthony Branker; and “A Love Supreme: The Spirit and Sound of John Coltrane’s Music” featuring tenor saxophonist Ralph Bowen, the world premiere of a commissioned work for big band by composer and trumpeter Michael Philip Mossman, and a performance of John Coltrane’s “A Love Supreme” suite.

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. Through funding from Sons of Sound Records, the university 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 in 2007. In 2009, 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. Recently, in 2013, the University Jazz Program and University Orchestra commissioned composer David Sanford to create “Teatro di Strada,” a joint work that was premiered by the Princeton University Orchestra and University Concert Jazz Ensemble featuring tenor saxophone soloist Ralph Bowen.

Princeton offers a number of outstanding jazz performance groups. Recently, the University Free to Be Ensemble traveled to Poland to collaborate and perform original music with jazz studies students from the Stanislaw Moniuszko Academy of Music in Gdansk in March 2015. In 2014, the University Concert Jazz Ensemble and Jazz Vocal Collective embarked on a performance tour of Italy to such cities as Rome, Ferentino, Florence, Ponsacco, and Milan. The University Jazz Composers Collective traveled to Australia in 2012 to perform and collaborate with students in the jazz studies program at the Sydney Conservatorium of Music. They also took part in a jazz-in-the-schools residency initiative sponsored by the Office of the U.S. Consulate General in Sydney that brought them to Winnaslea High School in the city of Blue Mountains, Australia where they performed with jazz students in school’s big band and presented a program of original compositions. The University Jazz Composers Collective has participated in three tours to Estonia (in 2014, 2011, 2006) that were sponsored by the Department of State of the United States of America, the U.S. Embassy in Estonia, and the Estonian Academy of Music & Theatre. The ensemble presented performances at the Estonian Academy of Music, Lindaskivi Kultuurikeskus (Cultural Center), Philly Joe’s Jazz Club in Tallinn, Geneva Night Club in the city of Narva (which was recorded for
broadcast on Estonian National Radio), as well as additional concerts at Theatre No. 99 and Philly Joe's Jazz Club in Tallinn where they performed original music created by students in the ensemble and collaborated with students from the jazz studies program at the Estonian Academy of Music & Theatre, Estonian jazz vocalist Kadri Voorand, and guitarist Jaak Sooää, chair of the jazz department at the academy of music. The Jazz Composers Collective was also featured in performance on Estonian National Television (EFTV) and took part in Jazz-in-the-Schools master class presentations at Heino Eleri Nimeline Tartu Muusikakool in Tartu, Estonia and Õismäe Russian Lyceum (Russian-speaking High School) in Tallinn. 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 Jazzet has performed at the Trenton2Nite 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, Swingtet, and Afro-Latin Ensemble.

Princeton's jazz program has also produced fourteen recording projects over the past twenty-seven years, which include Telling Stories (Free to Be Ensemble), Love Is What It Is (Jazz Vocal Collective), Onwards (Jazz Composers Collective), Blue/Yellow Dances (Jazz Composers Collective), Expanding Horizons (Jazz Composers Collective), Yesternow: The Princeton University Jazz Program 1989-2004 compilation CD (Concert Jazz Ensemble, Monk/Mingus Ensemble, Ensemble X, Hard Bop Ensemble & Afro-Groove Ensemble), 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 Casiro, 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), Meet What You Say (Concert Jazz Ensemble), and 7 Steps 2 Heaven (Concert Jazz Ensemble).
Dr. Anthony D.J. Branker holds an endowed chair in jazz studies and serves as founding director of the Program in Jazz Studies, director of university jazz ensembles program, and associate director of the Program in Musical Performance at Princeton University, where he has taught for 27 years. While at Princeton, he has directed an extensive list of ensembles and has taught courses in jazz theory through improvisation & composition, jazz performance practice in historical and cultural context, jazz composition, the evolution of jazz styles, and the improvising ensemble. Dr. Branker has served as a U.S. Fulbright Scholar and visiting professor at the Estonian Academy of Music and Theatre in Tallinn, Estonia and has been a member of the faculty at the Manhattan School of Music, Rutgers University Mason Gross School of the Arts, Hunter College of the City University of New York, Ursinus College, and the New Jersey Summer Arts Institute. Dr. Branker was visiting composer at the Southern Danish Academy of Music and Dramatic Arts in Odense/Esbjerg, Denmark; Hochschule für Musik und Theater in Pamburg, Germany; and the Estonian Academy of Music & Theatre. His work as a composer, educator, scholar, conductor, and performer has been featured on the international stage in Brazil, Switzerland, Poland, Finland, Italy, Denmark, Greece, China, Estonia, Australia, Germany, United Kingdom, France, Canada, Russia, Lithuania, and Japan as well as throughout the United States.

As a conductor, Dr. Branker has worked with such artists as Clark Terry, Phil Woods, Slide Hampton, Jimmy Heath, Jon Faddis, Conrad Herwig, Oliver Lake, Frank Foster, Benny Carter, Ted Curson, Orrin Evans, Stanley Jordan, Bobby Watson, Terence Blanchard, Bob Mintzer, Ralph Peterson, Steve Nelson, Antonio Hart, Freddie Hendrix, Don Braden, Jacky Terrasson, Bryan Carroll, Mark Gross, and Guilherme Franco. He has conducted world premieres of commissioned works for big band, including Michael Philip Mossman’s John Coltrane Suite; Bob Mintzer’s March Majestic; Jimmy Heath’s For the Love Of; Ralph Bowen’s Little Miss B; Conrad Herwig’s Reflections of a Man Facing South; Randy Bauer’s Wide-Eyed Wonder; and Laurie Altman’s In Another Time for orchestra, big band and vocal ensemble. Dr. Branker has also conducted trumpeter Terence Blanchard’s Grammy Award-Winning score for A Tale of God’s Will (A Requiem for Katrina) featuring Blanchard and His Quintet with orchestra, and has guest conducted the Princeton University Orchestra, Sinfonia, Chapel Choir, and Glee Club; Jugend Sinfonie Orchester (Bremen, Germany); Israel’s Kiryat Ono Symphonic Youth Band; and Japan’s Fukui Junior Orchestra. In addition, Branker has collaborated with the Juilliard Jazz Orchestra and conductors Wynton Marsalis, Loren Schoenberg, and Cecil Bridgewater on joint big band performances of Duke Ellington and Billy Strayhorn’s The Far East Suite and Ellington’s The New Orleans Suite at McCarter Theatre in Princeton. Recently, Dr. Branker conducted Pulitzer Prize Winning Composer Wynton Marsalis’ “Abysinnian 200—A Gospel Celebration” for choir and big band.

The music of composer Anthony Branker stands firmly on jazz traditions while simultaneously pushing the boundaries in bold and beautiful new directions. Recently, he was named in Down Beat magazine’s 63rd & 62nd Annual Critics Poll as a “Rising Star Composer” (2015 & 2014). Dr. Branker has recorded for Origon Records and Sons of Sound Records and has seven releases in his fast growing and musically rich discography. They include The Forward (Towards Equality) Suite (Origin, 2014), Uppity (Origon, 2013), Togost (Origin, 2012), Dialogue (Origin, 2011), Dunce Music (Origin, 2010), Blessings (Origin, 2009), and Spirit Songs (Sons of Sound, 2006). He leads both Anthony Branker & Ascenc, and Anthony Branker & Word Play, which have featured David Binney, Ralph Bowen, Conrad Herwig, Jim Ridl, Kenny Davis, Donald Edwards, Renato Thom, Alison Crockett, Mark Gross, Tim Fuller, Steve Wilson, Antonio Hart, Clifford Adams, Andy Hunter, Eli Asher, Jonny King, Bryan Carroll, John Benitez, Belden Bullock, Adam Cruz, Ralph Peterson Jr., Willy Fletcher, Kadri Voorand, and Freddie Bryant. Dr. Branker’s next CD project for Origon Records is titled Beauty Within and will present eight new works composed for the group Anthony Branker & Imagine featuring saxophonist Ralph Bowen, guitarist Pete McCann, pianist Fabian Almazan, bassist Linda Oh, and drummer Rudy Royston; Beauty Within will be released in the September 2016.

Dr. Branker has received composition prizes, commissions, served as composer-in-residence, and has had his music featured in performance in Poland, Italy, Denmark, Finland, France, Estonia, Russia, Australia, China, Germany, Lithuania, Japan, and throughout the United States; as well as at such venues as New York’s JVC Jazz Festival, Iridium Jazz Club, Sweet Basil Jazz Club, The Five Spot, New York’s Symphony Space, the Fez under Time Café, Trumpets Jazz Club, Puffin Cultural Theatre, and the Schomberg Center for Research in Black Culture. His music has also been performed and/or recorded by the Princeton University Orchestra, Talib Kibwe (T.K. Blue), Kenny Barron, Eddie Henderson, Victor Lewis, Steve Nelson, Stanley Jordan, Winard Harper, Joe Ford, Benny Carter, Valery Ponomarev, Cecil Brooks III, Onaje Allen Gumbs, Alex Blake, Sarah Jane Cion, Michael Cochrane, Jaz Parker, Curtis Lundy, Steve Kroon, Rick Magitza, and the Spirit of Life Ensemble.
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 Port 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 Kweli, Guitherme Franco & Nova Bossa Nova, Steve Nelson, Marcus Belgrave, Billy Higgins, John Hicks, Calvin Hill, James Weidman, Eddie Henderson, Michael Cochrane, Stanley Jordan, Benny Carter, Ralph Peterson, Terence Blanchard, Big John Patton, Roscoe Mitchell, Rick Margitza, Gary Burton, the R&B group Faves, and has performed in the critically acclaimed Off-Broadway production of Dinah Was: The Dinah Washington Musical.

Dr. Branker’s work as a scholar has been shared at conferences and/or published by the International Society for Music Education (ISME), International Society for Improvised Music (ISIM), Research in Music Education (RIME), International Symposium on Assessment in Music Education (ISAME), College Music Society (CMS), International Jazz Composers Symposium (IJCS), International Association for Jazz Education (IAJE), New Jersey Music Educators Association (NJMEA), and Down Beat magazine. He was recently named to the College Music Society’s Advisory Council on Improvisation and has served as program scholar for Looking At Jazz, America’s Art Form, a six-part documentary film viewing and discussion series at the Princeton Public Library in collaboration with the National Endowment for the Humanities, Jazz at Lincoln Center, and the American Library Association. Dr. Branker was the keynote speaker for the University of Jyväskylä Music Education Research Seminar in Jyväskylä, Finland, and has appeared a guest lecturer for the Department of Pop & Jazz Music at Helsinki Polytechnic Stadia in Helsinki, Finland; National Endowment for the Humanities Paul Robeson Institute at Rutgers University; “Teachers as Scholars” program for New Jersey Educators at Princeton University; Princeton University Alumni College Seminar “New Orleans: City of Jazz” in New Orleans, Louisiana; and Drew University.

Anthony D.J. Branker holds the degrees of Doctor of Education and Master of Education from Columbia University, Teachers College; 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.

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