



Press Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:
March 15, 2010

**The Kennedy Center
announces
13th ANNUAL
BETTY CARTER'S JAZZ AHEAD PARTICIPANTS**

**Featuring Musicians from Austria, Brazil, China, England, France,
Greece, Israel, Japan, Singapore, and the U.S.
In Kennedy Center Jazz Residency March 15-28, 2010
Millennium Stage Concerts March 24-26 at 6 p.m.**

Trumpeters: Marquis Hill, Curtis Taylor
Trombonists: Javier Nero, Mark Williams
Saxophonists: Greg Johnson, John Kocur, Nir Naaman, Jonathan Parker
Violinists: Andrei Matorin, Ben Powell
Guitarists: Will Graefe, Michael Valeanu
Pianists: Amy K. Bormet, Kerong Chok, Tom McEvoy, Tadataka "Tada" Unno
Bassists: Or Bareket, Adam Coté, Marty Jaffe, Gary Allen Thomas
Drummers: Nathan Jolley, Jamison Ross, Manuel Weyand, Clemens Zecha
Vocalists: Christie Dashiell, Stephanie Rooker, Milton Suggs, Penelope Tzanetaki

WASHINGTON, D.C.— The John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts today announced the participants in Betty Carter's Jazz Ahead—its national jazz residency program for emerging artists, now in its 13th year. Twenty-nine applicants from across the globe were selected by audition application that considered both composition and performance skills. For two weeks these artists engage in intense training in performance, composing, and arranging led by residency director and saxophonist Dr. Nathan Davis, bassist Chip Jackson, trombonist Curtis Fuller, drummer Winard Harper, pianist George Cables, vocalist Carmen Lundy, and the Center's Artistic Director for Jazz Dr. Billy Taylor. The 2010 graduates will perform three free concerts of original compositions—culminating events for the Jazz Ahead program—on the Millennium Stage Wednesday, March 24, Thursday, March 25, and Friday, March 26, 2010 at 6 p.m. The three Kennedy Center performances will be broadcast live on the Internet at <http://kennedy-center.org/millennium>.

Betty Carter's Jazz Ahead participants will also give a free concert at The Music School of Delaware in Wilmington, Delaware on Saturday, March 27, 2010 at 2p.m., and perform at Berks Jazz Fest in Reading, Pennsylvania on Sunday, March 28, 2010 at 3 p.m.

Betty Carter founded Jazz Ahead as a vehicle to bring new life into jazz and teach the most promising fledgling artists what she knew. She originally developed the program in 1993 at 651, an arts center in Brooklyn, and the first concert was presented at the BAM Majestic Theater. In 1997, the Kennedy Center and Dr. Billy Taylor, Artistic Director for Jazz, invited Carter to bring Jazz Ahead to Washington, D.C. On April 15, 1998, a delighted audience in the Kennedy Center Concert Hall heard the results of Carter's intense week of work with a group of 20 young jazz artists. Betty Carter's Jazz Ahead had a new home and Carter was filled with hope for the future of the program. After Carter's death in September 1998, Dr. Billy Taylor and the Kennedy Center decided to continue her legacy by making the Jazz Ahead program, with the principles Carter laid down as the foundation, an annual event. Betty Carter's Jazz Ahead alumni include Jason Moran, Jacky Terrasson, Aaron Parks, Lage Lund, Andre Hayward, Marco Panascia, Ameen Saleem, Miri Ben-Ari, Daniela Schaechter, Grace Kelly, Jon Irabagon, and more.

The Kennedy Center invites serious jazz artists under the age of 30 to apply for the Kennedy Center's 14th Annual Betty Carter's Jazz Ahead residency, April 4-15, 2011. The deadline for the receipt of applications is November 19, 2010. Eligible candidates must be both composers and performers, proficient in English. Each applicant must submit a résumé and an audio recording of his/her own work. A panel of jazz artists, selected by the Kennedy Center, will review applications. The Kennedy Center will provide the residency participants with housing, travel to and from Washington, D.C., and modest honoraria for meal expenses. Alumni who have previously participated in two residencies are ineligible to apply. Betty Carter's Jazz Ahead application information is available at <http://kennedy-center.org/jazzahead>, or by contacting Kennedy Center Jazz at 202/416-8348 or artsabroad@kennedy-center.org.

Funding for Betty Carter's Jazz Ahead is provided by The U.S. Department of Education and The Honorable and Mrs. Stuart Bernstein.

For more information about the Kennedy Center visit www.kennedy-center.org.

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