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THE PRESIDENT
& MRS. OBAMA
WELCOME YOU TO THE
WHITE HOUSE
FOR THE

INTERNATIONAL
JAZZ DAY
GLOBAL CONCERT

FRIDAY, APRIL 29, 2016



INTERNATIONAL JAZZ DAY

In November 2011, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) officially designated April 30th as International Jazz Day. Each year, International Jazz Day brings together communities, schools, artists, historians, academics, and jazz enthusiasts all over the world to celebrate and learn about jazz and its roots, future and impact; raise awareness of the need for intercultural dialogue and mutual understanding; and reinforce international cooperation and communication. International Jazz Day is the one day each year that jazz is celebrated worldwide for 24 hours straight, uniting people of all ages, backgrounds and nationalities in 195 countries. The day is chaired and led by Irina Bokova, UNESCO Director General, and legendary jazz pianist and composer Herbie Hancock, who serves as UNESCO Goodwill Ambassador for Intercultural Dialogue and Chairman of the Thelonious Monk Institute of Jazz. The Institute is the lead nonprofit organization charged with planning, promoting and producing this annual worldwide celebration that is recognized on the official calendars of both UNESCO and the United Nations. www.jazzday.com



UNESCO

The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) works to create the conditions for dialogue among civilizations, cultures and peoples, based upon respect for commonly shared values. It is through this dialogue that UNESCO accomplishes its mission to contribute to the building of peace, the eradication of poverty, sustainable development and intercultural dialogue through education, the sciences, culture, communication and information. UNESCO's overarching objectives include: attaining quality education for all and lifelong learning; mobilizing science knowledge and policy for sustainable development; addressing emerging social and ethical challenges; fostering cultural diversity, intercultural dialogue and a culture of peace; and building inclusive knowledge societies through information and communication. www.unesco.org

THELONIOUS MONK INSTITUTE OF JAZZ

The Thelonious Monk Institute of Jazz is a nonprofit education organization founded in 1986. Its mission is to offer the world's most promising young musicians college level training by internationally acclaimed jazz masters and to present public school-based music education programs for young people around the world. The Institute preserves, perpetuates and expands jazz as a global art form, and utilizes jazz as a means to unite people of all ages, backgrounds and nationalities. All of the Institute's programs are provided free of charge to students, schools and communities worldwide. The Institute's programs help fill a tremendous void in arts education, and use jazz as the medium to encourage imaginative thinking, creativity, a positive self-image, and respect for one's own and others' cultural heritage. www.monkinstitute.org

Remarks by THE PRESIDENT

Performances by

JOEY ALEXANDER	HUGH MASEKELA
BRIAN BLADE	CHRISTIAN MCBRIDE
TERENCE BLANCHARD	JOHN MCLAUGHLIN
KRIS BOWERS	PAT METHENY
DEE DEE BRIDGEWATER	MARCUS MILLER
TILL BRÖNNER	JAMES MORRISON
TERRI LYNE CARRINGTON	DANILO PÉREZ
CHICK COREA	REBIRTH BRASS BAND
JAMIE CULLUM	DIANNE REEVES
ELI DEGIBRI	LEE RITENOUR
PAQUITO D'RIVERA	DAVID SÁNCHEZ
KURT ELLING	KENDRICK SCOTT
ARETHA FRANKLIN	WAYNE SHORTER
ROBERT GLASPER	ESPERANZA SPALDING
BUDDY GUY	STING
HERBIE HANCOCK	TROMBONE SHORTY
ZAKIR HUSSAIN	CHUCHO VALDÉS
AL JARREAU	SADAO WATANABE
DIANA KRALL	BOBBY WATSON
LIONEL LOUEKE	BEN WILLIAMS

Program Host
MORGAN FREEMAN

Musical Director
JOHN BEASLEY

Executive Producers

HERBIE HANCOCK	CHARLIE HAYKEL
THOMAS R. CARTER	JULIANE HARE
DON MISCHER	

Producer
MICHELLE DAY

Program subject to change

JOEY ALEXANDER

Born in Denpasar, Bali in 2003, Joey Alexander first encountered a piano at age 6, and was immediately able to play by ear the melodies from his father's collection of jazz standards. Two years later, UNESCO invited him to play solo piano in front of Herbie Hancock in Indonesia. By age 10, Alexander was performing at jazz festivals in Jakarta and Copenhagen, and he won the International Festival-Contest of Jazz Improvisation in Odessa, Ukraine, besting more than 200 jazz professionals from 17 countries. In 2015, he released his highly anticipated debut album, *My Favorite Things*, which showcases his imagination, sophisticated arrangements and dazzling playing.

JOHN BEASLEY

Musical Director

Pianist, composer and musical director John Beasley is a musical chameleon whose collaborators include Miles Davis, Freddie Hubbard, Steely Dan, Barbra Streisand, Queen Latifah, Chaka Khan and James Brown. Beasley has performed on film scores for *Erin Brockovich*, *Finding Nemo* and *The Godfather: Part III* and composed for hit television series like "Cheers," "Fame" and "Star Trek: The Next Generation." Beasley leads MONK'estra, a 15-piece band that celebrates Thelonious Monk's classic compositions with a contemporary twist incorporating Afro-Cuban rhythms, modern jazz, hip-hop and traditional big band instrumentation.

BRIAN BLADE

Brian Blade has established himself as a versatile and accomplished drummer, composer, bandleader, guitarist and singer-songwriter. Early in his career, he appeared on albums by Bob Dylan, Kenny Garrett and Joshua Redman. At age 27, he released his first album, *Brian Blade Fellowship*, and followed two years later with *Perceptual*, both on Blue Note. An in-demand collaborator, he has worked with Chick Corea, Bill Frisell, Herbie Hancock, Norah Jones, Daniel Lanois and Joni Mitchell, and is a member of the acclaimed Wayne Shorter Quartet. Blade has showcased his vocal and songwriting abilities and guitar playing on *Mama Rosa*, with songs dedicated to his grandmother and family.

TERENCE BLANCHARD

Five-time GRAMMY® Award-winning trumpeter Terence Blanchard has attained a unique position as an accomplished jazz artist, bandleader, film composer and educator. While attending Rutgers University, he was offered a position in Art Blakey's Jazz Messengers, where he served as musical director. Blanchard has composed for every Spike Lee film since *Mo' Better Blues*, and has scored dozens of other films and television shows. In 2006, he appeared in and composed for Spike Lee's documentary *When the Levees Broke: A Requiem in Four Acts*. Blanchard's corresponding recording, *A Tale of God's Will (A Requiem for Katrina)*, received a GRAMMY® Award for Best Large Jazz Ensemble Album.

KRIS BOWERS

Kris Bowers is one of the most creative young pianists on the jazz scene today. A graduate of The Juilliard School, he won the 2011 Thelonious Monk Institute International Jazz Piano Competition. Bowers has performed and recorded with Aretha Franklin, Jay Z, Kanye West, Ambrose Akinmusire, Louis Hayes, Mulgrew Miller, Terrell Stafford and Ben Williams. Bowers has composed for documentaries including *Elaine Stritch: Shoot Me*, *Seeds of Time*, *Play it Forward* and Showtime's *Kobe Bryant's Muse*. His genre-spanning debut album *Heroes and Misfits* landed him the No. 1 spot on the iTunes jazz charts.

DEE DEE BRIDGEWATER

Dee Dee Bridgewater's exuberance, creativity, undeniable confidence and joyous spirit have earned her multiple GRAMMYS® and a place as one of the premier jazz vocalists. She has collaborated with the Thad Jones/Mel Lewis Orchestra, Sonny Rollins, Dizzy Gillespie, Dexter Gordon, Max Roach and other jazz giants. On Broadway, she won a Tony for her role as Glinda the Good Witch in "The Wiz" and received critical acclaim for her portrayal of Billie Holiday in "Lady Day." Bridgewater serves as an Ambassador of the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization. Her 2015 release, *Dee Dee's Feathers*, features inventive readings of classic Crescent City compositions.

TILL BRÖNNER

One of the most renowned German jazz musicians of his generation, Till Brönner is a GRAMMY®-nominated trumpeter, vocalist, composer and arranger whose work spans straight-ahead jazz, electronica, hip-hop, rock and pop. He made his debut as a leader in 1994 with the award-winning *Generations of Jazz*, featuring bassist Ray Brown and drummer Jeff Hamilton. Since then, he has performed and recorded with leading jazz figures including Monty Alexander, Tony Bennett, Al Foster, Johnny Griffin, Chaka Khan, Madeleine Peyroux and Ernie Watts. His 2012 self-titled album is a stunning homage to his longtime inspiration Freddie Hubbard.

TERRI LYNE CARRINGTON

Terri Lyne Carrington is a three-time GRAMMY® Award-winning drummer, producer and recording artist. At age 10, she had her first major performance with trumpet legend Clark Terry, and as a teenager she performed and recorded with Kenny Barron, Buster Williams, Stan Getz and James Moody. Her latest effort is a follow-up to her critically acclaimed album *The Mosaic Project*, titled *The Mosaic Project: Love and Soul*. Like its predecessor, the album presents Carrington leading a rotating cast of superb female instrumentalists and vocalists.

CHICK COREA

Chick Corea has attained living legend status after five decades of unparalleled creativity and artistic output. His first professional gig was with Cab Calloway, followed by stints in Latin jazz bands led by Mongo Santamaria and Willie Bobo. Since embarking on a solo career in 1966, Corea has forged new ground with his acoustic jazz bands and with Return to Forever, the Elektric Band, and the electro/acoustic Vigil. A *DownBeat* Hall of Famer, NEA Jazz Master, 22-time GRAMMY® Award-winner, and keyboard virtuoso, his discography ranges from straight ahead to avant-garde, bebop to fusion, children's songs to chamber music, and forays into symphonic works.

JAMIE CULLUM

Jamie Cullum is one of today's most successful jazz artists, with more than 10 million albums sold worldwide. He has received a GRAMMY® Award, 2 Golden Globes, 2 GQ Man of the Year awards, 3 Brits and 3 Sony Radio awards, among many other accolades. Born in Rochford, England, Cullum first made his mark through jazz with his multi-platinum *Twentysomething*. Cullum continues to blur musical genres with his unique take on jazz, pop and rock. He presents his own award-winning weekly primetime show on BBC Radio 2, Europe's highest rated station. *Interlude*, his latest project on Island Records, shows Cullum reconnecting with his jazz roots.

ELI DEGIBRI

Saxophonist and composer Eli Degibri of Israel has established himself as a prominent musician in jazz, gaining a worldwide fan base. He toured with Herbie Hancock's sextet for more than two years, and went on to perform and record as a member of the Al Foster Quartet. Degibri is a recipient of the honorary Israeli Prime Minister Award for Jazz Composition and the Landau Award for Jazz Performance, which recognizes his achievements as a bandleader. His latest release with his quartet is aptly named *Cliff Hangin'* as it captures the thrilling and unpredictable urgency of his playing.

PAQUITO D'RIVERA

Paquito D'Rivera defies categorization. The winner of 14 GRAMMY® Awards, the celebrated clarinetist, saxophonist and composer is recognized for his artistry in Latin jazz and his achievements as a classical composer. Born in Havana, Cuba, at age 17 D'Rivera became a featured soloist with the Cuban National Symphony and later was a founding member and co-director of the innovative musical ensemble Irakere. In 1988, he became a founding member of the United Nation Orchestra, a 15-piece ensemble organized by Dizzy Gillespie to showcase the fusion of Latin and Caribbean influences with jazz. D'Rivera tours worldwide with his ensembles and appears on more than 30 solo albums.

KURT ELLING

Kurt Elling combines his extraordinary vocal talents with his bandleading, composing and arranging to produce a sound that has been thrilling audiences for more than two decades. Elling developed his idiosyncratic scat style in the clubs of Chicago. He has since released six Blue Note albums, all of which have been GRAMMY® nominated and critically acclaimed. His Concord release, *Dedicated to You: Kurt Elling Sings the Music of Coltrane and Hartman*, received the 2009 GRAMMY® for Best Jazz Vocal Album. Elling was named top male vocalist in the *DownBeat* Critics Poll for 13 consecutive years. *Passion World*, his most recent release, is an exploration of musical styles and compositions from around the globe.

ARETHA FRANKLIN

Aretha Franklin's musical legacy has made her a living legend known the world over simply by her first name. The "Queen of Soul" has created an amazing legacy that spans six decades, from her first recording as a teenage gospel star to her current release, *Aretha Franklin Sings the Great Diva Classics*. Franklin has received the Presidential Medal of Freedom, along with 18 GRAMMY® Awards, a GRAMMY® Lifetime Achievement Award and a GRAMMY® Living Legend Award. Her powerful, distinctive vocal style has earned her *Rolling Stone* magazine's No. 1 slot on its list of "The Greatest Singers of All Time."

MORGAN FREEMAN

Program Host

With his authoritative voice and calm demeanor, Morgan Freeman is one of the most respected figures in cinematic history. Freeman received an Oscar nomination as the patient, dignified chauffeur in *Driving Miss Daisy*, and starred in the epic Civil War drama *Glory*. He also gave memorable performances in *Unforgiven*, *The Shawshank Redemption*, *Amistad* and *Million Dollar Baby*, which won him the Best Supporting Actor Oscar. In 2011, Freeman was honored with the Cecil B. DeMille Award at the Golden Globe Awards, and received an AFI Lifetime Achievement Award. Committed to preserving and perpetuating the blues, Freeman co-owns the Ground Zero Blues Club in Clarksdale, Mississippi.

ROBERT GLASPER

GRAMMY® Award-winning pianist and composer Robert Glasper is defining the cutting edge of modern music. Albums with his acoustic trio and his electric Robert Glasper Experiment showcase his original blend of hip-hop and modern jazz, rhythmic experiments, and radical re-workings of classic jazz and rock material. Glasper's 2012 release *Black Radio* entered the *Billboard* charts at No. 1 and received a GRAMMY® in 2013 for Best R&B Album. His latest release, *Black Radio 2*, finds Glasper creating in a vibrant new chasm.

BUDDY GUY

Buddy Guy is a titan of the blues, straddling traditional and modern forms as well as musical generations. He has worked with Muddy Waters, Little Walter and Howlin' Wolf along with Eric Clapton, Stevie Ray Vaughan and the Rolling Stones. Guy recorded a string of hits from the 1960s through the '80s, attaining great stature within the blues community. His career broke wide open with the 1991 release of *Damn Right, I've Got the Blues*. This landmark album won Guy a GRAMMY® and five W.C. Handy awards, and he recorded and toured prolifically in its wake. A Rock and Roll Hall of Fame inductee, Guy's latest release is *Born to Play Guitar*.

HERBIE HANCOCK

Herbie Hancock, a 14-time GRAMMY® Award-winner and Academy Award winner, is an internationally renowned pianist and composer who has been an integral part of every jazz movement since the 1960s. His Blue Note debut, *Takin' Off*, included "Watermelon Man," the first of many Top 10 hits. As a member of the Miles Davis Quintet, Hancock became one of the pioneers of modern jazz improvisation. His recordings in the '70s combined electric jazz with funk and rock, influencing decades of music. In 2007, he won the GRAMMY® for Album of the Year, becoming the first jazz musician to receive this honor in 44 years. Hancock serves as UNESCO Goodwill Ambassador for Intercultural Dialogue.

ZAKIR HUSSAIN

Zakir Hussain is a classical tabla virtuoso of the highest order and a chief architect of the contemporary world music movement. A national treasure in his native India, Hussain's collaborations include Shakti, which he founded with John McLaughlin and L. Shankar, the Diga Rhythm Band, Planet Drum with Mickey Hart, Tabla Beat Science, and Sangam with Charles Lloyd and Eric Harland. He has recorded and performed with George Harrison, Yo-Yo Ma, Joe Henderson, Van Morrison, Airto Moreira, Béla Fleck, Mark Morris and the Kodo drummers. In 2009, Hussain performed four widely heralded, sold-out concerts at Carnegie Hall.

AL JARREAU

Seven-time GRAMMY® Award winner Al Jarreau has captivated a worldwide audience with his blend of jazz and soul music, amazing vocal skills, and scat techniques. His 1975 debut album, *We Got By*, received massive critical acclaim. Jarreau's 1981 album *Breakin' Away*, which included the hit "We're in This Love Together," sold a million copies and made him one of the most recognized singers in music. He has continued to release chart-topping albums and tour the world with his sextet and with symphony orchestras. Jarreau was awarded a Hollywood Walk of Fame Star, commemorating his spectacular career.

DIANA KRALL

Diana Krall is a multi-talented pianist and vocalist who is one of the best-selling jazz artists of her generation. Her 1996 album *All for You*, a tribute to Nat King Cole, was a breakthrough success, and her follow-up album, *When I Look in Your Eyes*, topped the *Billboard* jazz charts for more than a year. Krall has toured with Tony Bennett, recorded with Ray Charles, produced music for Barbra Streisand and worked with Paul McCartney on his 2012 album, *Kisses on the Bottom*. Krall's latest release is *Wallflower*, which features her signature renditions of songs by Bob Dylan, Elton John and the Eagles.

LIONEL LOUEKE

Lionel Loueke of Benin is a truly original artist and an influential voice in jazz who melds African guitar tradition with jazz harmonies. In 2001, Loueke was accepted to the Thelonious Monk Institute of Jazz Performance, where he studied and later toured and recorded with Terence Blanchard and Herbie Hancock. Loueke performed alongside Sting on Hancock's *Possibilities*, and is featured on Hancock's *River: The Joni Letters*. In 2007, he signed to Blue Note and released *Karibu*, featuring Hancock and Wayne Shorter. His latest release on the Blue Note label is *GAIA*.

HUGH MASEKELA

Legendary trumpeter Hugh Masekela has been a defining force in world music and human rights in Africa and around the globe. The iconic performer, composer, producer and activist escaped South Africa's Apartheid oppression and went on to record the 1968 GRAMMY®-nominated hit single "Grazing in the Grass," which sold more than 4 million copies and made him an international star. Masekela has collaborated with Miriam Makeba, Dizzy Gillespie, Harry Belafonte, Herb Alpert, Paul Simon, U2 and Fela Kuti. His hit song "Bring Him Back Home" became an anthem for the Free Nelson Mandela movement.

CHRISTIAN MCBRIDE

Five-time GRAMMY® Award-winning jazz bassist Christian McBride is an in-demand performer who hosts and produces "The Lowdown: Conversations with Christian" on SiriusXM satellite radio, and showcases outstanding live jazz from across the country on National Public Radio's "Jazz Night in America" weekly radio show. McBride was recently named the Newport Jazz Festival's new artistic director, and will take the reins from its legendary founder George Wein in 2017. Completing the circle is his work with Jazz House Kids, the nationally recognized nonprofit founded by his wife, vocalist Melissa Walker.

JOHN MCLAUGHLIN

A revolutionary force in music, John McLaughlin has been forging his own path on guitar since the 1960s. McLaughlin performed on the classic Miles Davis album *In a Silent Way* and formed the Mahavishnu Orchestra, which brought together rock, jazz, and Eastern music and had a massive impact on musicians and music lovers around the world. McLaughlin has played on dozens of albums with artists including Stanley Clarke, Carlos Santana, Dexter Gordon and Wayne Shorter. His most recent album, *Black Light*, features his jazz fusion quartet, the 4th Dimension.

PAT METHENY

Pat Metheny is an incomparably versatile guitarist who has won 20 GRAMMY® Awards in 12 different categories. He burst onto the international jazz scene in 1974 when he began performing with vibraphonist Gary Burton. Metheny has reinvented the traditional jazz guitar sound for a new generation of players. Over the years, he has performed with Ornette Coleman, Steve Reich, Herbie Hancock, Jim Hall, Milton Nascimento and David Bowie. Metheny's body of work includes compositions for solo guitar, small ensembles, electric and acoustic instruments, orchestras and ballet.

MARCUS MILLER

Marcus Miller is a modern pioneer of electric bass who has appeared on more than 500 albums. Miller has recorded with an amazing array of artists including Elton John, Grover Washington, Jr., Chaka Khan, LL Cool J and Frank Sinatra. As a member of Miles Davis' band, his contributions as a bass player, composer and producer defined Davis' style throughout the '80s. Inspired by his new role as a UNESCO Artist for Peace and spokesperson for the Slave Route Project, his latest release *Afrodeezia* was recorded around the world in France, Morocco, New Orleans and Los Angeles.

JAMES MORRISON

James Morrison is a virtuoso trumpeter, composer and multi-instrumentalist who is one of Australia's most renowned musicians. At 16, he made his debut at the Monterey Jazz Festival and was soon performing at major jazz festivals with Dizzy Gillespie, Ray Brown, Quincy Jones, Herbie Hancock, Cab Calloway, Woody Shaw, Red Rodney, George Benson, Ray Charles, B.B. King and Wynton Marsalis. In 2000, Morrison was selected to compose and perform the opening fanfare for the Olympic Games in Sydney.

DANILO PÉREZ

As a collaborator with jazz giants and as a solo artist, Danilo Pérez of Panama is one of the most creative pianists on the scene. In 1989, he became the youngest member of Dizzy Gillespie's United Nation Orchestra. He went on to receive critical acclaim for his solo releases, including *PanaMonk* and *Central Avenue*, and joined the Wayne Shorter Quartet. In recent years, Pérez has taken on the roles of Ambassador of Goodwill for UNICEF, Cultural Ambassador of Panama, President and Founder of the Panama Jazz Festival, and Artistic Director of the Berklee College of Music's Global Jazz Institute.

REBIRTH BRASS BAND

No band exemplifies the essence and soul of New Orleans like Rebirth Brass Band. Whether seen on HBO's "Treme" or at their legendary Tuesday night gig at the Maple Leaf, Rebirth is a true New Orleans institution. Formed in 1983, the band has evolved from playing the streets of the French Quarter to performing at festivals and stages around the world. While committed to upholding the tradition of brass bands, they also extend themselves into the realms of funk and hip-hop to create their signature sound. The band's 2011 release *Rebirth of New Orleans* received the 2012 GRAMMY® for Best Regional Roots Music Album.

DIANNE REEVES

A five-time GRAMMY® Award winner, Dianne Reeves is one of the premier vocalists on the worldwide music scene. She began her career as a studio vocalist working with Lenny White, Stanley Turrentine and Billy Childs, and later toured with Sergio Mendes and Harry Belafonte. Reeves' Blue Note releases in the '90s established her place as an exceptional vocalist, and she was invited to perform at the closing ceremonies of the 2002 Winter Olympic Games in Salt Lake City. Her album *Beautiful Life* features an all-star cast and won the 2015 GRAMMY® for Best Jazz Vocal Album.

LEE RITENOUR

GRAMMY® Award-winning guitarist Lee Ritenour has appeared on more than 3,000 sessions in virtually all styles of music. Ritenour played one of his first sessions at age 16 for The Mamas and the Papas. His albums in the '70s demonstrated his love of jazz, pop and Brazilian music, and were met with chart-topping success. In the '90s, Ritenour was a founding member of the jazz group Fourplay, whose first album spent an unprecedented 22 weeks at number one on the *Billboard* contemporary jazz charts. He has appeared on albums by Dizzy Gillespie and Pink Floyd, and received the top spot in numerous guitar polls.

DAVID SÁNCHEZ

GRAMMY® Award-winner David Sánchez is recognized around the world as one of the finest saxophonists of his generation. He combines his deep knowledge of jazz and Latin music with extraordinary results. Sánchez toured the world as a member of Dizzy Gillespie's United Nation Orchestra, and later released seven albums as a leader with Columbia Records. Sánchez has performed and recorded with Kenny Barron, Roy Haynes, Pat Metheny, Roy Hargrove, Danilo Pérez, Stefon Harris and Gonzalo Rubalcaba.

KENDRICK SCOTT

Named one of the "Five Drummers Whose Time Is Now" by *The New York Times*, Kendrick Scott is a consummate musician whose jaw-dropping power behind the drums is matched only by his remarkable finesse. Scott has toured with Herbie Hancock, Charles Lloyd, The Crusaders, Kurt Rosenwinkel, Kurt Elling and Terence Blanchard. He has released three albums as a bandleader, including two with his group, Oracle. In 2014, Scott performed with the Blue Note Records 75th Anniversary all-star band. His Blue Note debut is 2015's *We Are the Drum*.

WAYNE SHORTER

Saxophonist and composer Wayne Shorter has profoundly impacted the sound of modern music for more than half a century. After serving as musical director for Art Blakey's Jazz Messengers, in 1964 he recorded *Speak No Evil*—his first record as a leader for Blue Note—and joined Miles Davis' group with Herbie Hancock, Ron Carter and Tony Williams. In 1970, Shorter and Joe Zawinul formed Weather Report, which became one of the most influential forces of the fusion era. Shorter is a 10-time GRAMMY® Award winner and GRAMMY® Lifetime Achievement Award recipient.

ESPERANZA SPALDING

Esperanza Spalding is a dynamic bassist, singer and composer who is cutting her own unique creative path. She is the first jazz musician to win a GRAMMY® Award for Best New Artist. While a college student at the Berklee College of Music, Spalding was invited to perform with Patti Austin. Since then, her career has taken off with chart-topping releases and a performance at the Nobel Peace Concert. Her current release, *Emily's D+Evolution*, has received wide critical acclaim.

STING

Composer, singer, author, actor and activist, Sting formed The Police with Stewart Copeland and Andy Summers, and the group released five chart-topping albums. Sting's first solo album, *The Dream of the Blue Turtles*, featured an all-star cast of jazz musicians including Branford Marsalis and Kenny Kirkland. His worldwide success has continued with 11 additional solo albums, most recently *The Last Ship*. Sting has received 16 GRAMMY® Awards, induction into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame, a Kennedy Center Honors Award, and a Commander of the British Empire appointment from Queen Elizabeth II.

TROMBONE SHORTY

Troy "Trombone Shorty" Andrews of New Orleans began playing trombone at age 4 and leading brass band parades at age 6. By 19, he was touring the world with Lenny Kravitz and went on to appear with the Lincoln Center Jazz Orchestra, U2 and Green Day. His debut *Backatown* received nearly universal acclaim, taking the top spot in the *Billboard* jazz charts for nine straight weeks. His hard-edged funk band Trombone Shorty & Orleans Avenue uses hip-hop beats, rock dynamics and improvisation in a jazz tradition, and performs sold-out concerts all over the globe.

CHUCHO VALDÉS

The winner of five GRAMMY® and three Latin GRAMMY® Awards, pianist, composer and arranger Chucho Valdés is the most influential figure in modern Afro-Cuban jazz. He established Irakere as a big band that played an explosive mix of jazz, rock, classical, and traditional Cuban music. In 1998, he launched a hugely successful parallel career as a solo player and quartet leader, and began releasing acclaimed albums on the Blue Note label. Valdés' piano performances and recordings continue to make an indelible mark on musicians of all genres.

SADAO WATANABE

Sadao Watanabe is a prolific Japanese saxophonist who has been a leading presence on the international jazz scene for six decades. As a member of Toshiko Akiyoshi's quartet, he established himself as a world-class saxophonist. At Boston's Berklee College of Music, Watanabe became interested in Brazilian music. After returning to Japan, he released *Jazz & Bossa Nova*, which introduced the country to the bossa nova sound. His appearance at the Newport Jazz Festival launched his international career, and he went on to collaborate with Chick Corea. Watanabe has released more than 70 albums, many of which have topped the *Billboard* jazz charts.

BOBBY WATSON

Bobby Watson is one of the top alto saxophonists in the world. He was a member of Art Blakey's Jazz Messengers, and later formed Horizon, the quintessential contemporary hard bop quintet of the 1980s and '90s. Known for his extraordinary ability to play swing, hard bop, and contemporary jazz, Watson appears on over 100 albums and has more than 100 compositions to his credit. His latest album, *Check Cashing Day*, was recorded in honor of the 50th anniversary of the March on Washington and Dr. Martin Luther King's "I Have A Dream" speech.

BEN WILLIAMS

Ben Williams is a world-class musician who is setting a new standard for the bass. Williams won the 2009 Thelonious Monk Institute International Jazz Bass Competition and has since performed with Jacky Terrasson, Wynton Marsalis, Terence Blanchard, Benny Golson, Pat Metheny and Stefon Harris' Blackout. Williams' latest release, *Coming of Age*, is a collection of new works reflecting his wide-ranging musical interests.



