

# JAZZ AND THE NEW GENERATION II



**Dr. Billy Taylor**

**Tuesday, January 10, 2006**  
**11 a.m.-12 p.m. ET**  
**Grades 7-12**

When viewing *Jazz and the New Generation II* and participating in this guide's suggested activities, the following National Standards for Music will be addressed: 2, 3, 6, 7, 9.

## Program Notes

### The Performers

The performers in this broadcast are a talented group of high school and college jazz instrumentalist and vocalists who represent the new generation of jazz. Winners of competitions across the country, these young artists may well become tomorrow's jazz superstars. The artists include: Eldar Djangirov, piano; Matthew Marantz, alto saxophone; Marcus Gilmore, drums; Caley Monahon-Ward, violin; Philip Kuehn, bass; Crystal Torres, vocals.

After only one week of preparation and rehearsal, this group of young jazz musicians has prepared a program of music written by pianist and jazz legend Dr. Billy Taylor—America's leading spokesman for jazz. The performance will feature the following selections:

"Conversion"  
"La Cote D'Ivoire"  
"C.A.G."  
"I Think of You"  
"Titoro"

Excerpts from "Homage," Movements II and III

### The Inspiration

Many of the young musicians you will hear emerged from the "Betty Carter's Jazz Ahead" program at the Kennedy Center. Inspired by legendary jazz singer Betty Carter, this residency program identifies new artists and brings them together to study with experienced artists and teachers who aid and instruct them on their performance, composition, and arranging skills.

Ms. Carter sang with the legends: Charlie Parker, Lionel Hampton, Max Roach, Dizzy Gillespie, Miles Davis, and Ray Charles. With a reputation for refusing to follow the "mainstream" of jazz interpretation, Carter promoted an improvisational style that featured offbeat renditions of classic tunes and unusual scat singing.

It was her determination to inspire and train young performers that led to the creation of her Jazz Ahead program in 1993. Before her death in 1998, Carter brought the program to the Kennedy Center where it continues to search for the brightest young talents in jazz each year.

### About the Program

The young jazz artists will discuss their thoughts on the future of jazz and add their interpretation to the original compositions of Dr. Taylor. You also will hear a variety of instruments in a range of jazz styles:

**New Orleans (Dixieland) jazz** is one of the oldest jazz styles, dating back to the early 1900s. Many Dixieland tunes are based on ragtime, marches, and spirituals, such as "When the Saints Go Marching In."

**Swing, or big band jazz** began during the 1930s. Played by large groups, this music is popular for dancing. The catchy melodies and regular rhythms of orchestras like those of Benny Goodman and Duke Ellington helped keep dancers moving to the beat.

**Latin** jazz incorporates elements of Latin American music, mostly its percussion instruments and dance rhythms. During the 1940s, bandleaders such as Machito and Dizzy Gillespie formed Afro-Cuban orchestras that combined big band and Cuban musical styles.

**Rhythm and blues** evolved from early blues styles, and became popular during the 1940s. It is primarily dance music that features a lead singer. Other group members join in singing nonsense syllables (“ooo,” “doowop”) and catchy phrases (“shake, rattle, and roll”).

**Bebop** surfaced in the 1940s and was dramatically different from swing. The emphasis switched from big bands to small groups of only four or five players. Singable tunes were replaced by jagged-sounding, complex melodies. The music alternates between short sections of tense rhythms and long sections of improvised melody. This music is not for dancing.

**Cool** jazz grew out of a reaction to bebop. In the late 1940s and early 1950s, musicians toned down the highly emotional elements of bebop, lowering the dynamics, slowing down the tempo, and using gentler tone colors. Melodies are subtle and mellow, not rugged and aggressive.

## Instructional Activities

### What to Look and Listen for

**Individual Personality**—Reflected when musicians create a unique, personal sound while playing their instruments. Jazz requires each young artist’s individual style to clearly emerge.

**Ensemble**—Refers to the way musicians in a group work together. Musicians carefully listen to each other and respond to what they hear each other play. Observe how the musicians communicate with one another.

**Improvising**—Spontaneous musical composition. Jazz musicians usually know the musical outline of what they will improvise, and extend and develop the individual notes as they go along. Listen carefully to the melody at the beginning of each piece. This is usually the musical material that will be repeated, developed, and extended throughout the work.

**Soloing**—When a musician takes the “lead” and performs alone. Watch how players indicate to one another it is their turn to play a solo. Listen carefully when musicians are playing solos, during which they often improvise.

**Rhythm**—Move your hands and feet to the different rhythms of each instrument. Listen for how the bass player and drummer often keep the pulse of the music.

**Syncopation**—Stressing a note in an unexpected place, between beats or on a weak beat, in such a way that listeners want to move, nod their heads, clap their hands, or dance.

**Tempo**—The speed of the music. Are individual pieces consistently fast or slow throughout, or does the tempo change in certain sections of the music?

**Dynamics**—Refers to the volume of sound of the music. Are individual pieces consistently loud or soft throughout, or do the dynamics change in certain sections?

## Internet Resources

For more information, visit:

[kennedy-center.org/jazzahead](http://kennedy-center.org/jazzahead)

[home.att.net/~timcramm/betty.htm](http://home.att.net/~timcramm/betty.htm)

[jazznet.com](http://jazznet.com)

[artsedge.kennedy-center.org/content/3295/](http://artsedge.kennedy-center.org/content/3295/)

[artsedge.kennedy-center.org/exploring/louis/artsedge.html](http://artsedge.kennedy-center.org/exploring/louis/artsedge.html)



Young Jazz Performers