

Digital Program
Jazz in the Gardens | Tribute to Quincy Jones

Wednesday, September 3, 2025, 6:30 p.m.



Donna Limerick, executive producer
Marshall Keys, music director, saxophone
Eric Williams, trumpet
Mark Prince, drums

Maureen Monteiro, assistant producer
Imani-Grace Cooper, vocals
Federico Peña, keyboard
Mikel Combs, bass

Program

Sermonette - Cannonball Adderley

From "This Is How I Feel About Jazz". This 1957 album is Quincy's first full-length album as a bandleader. Composed by Cannonball Adderley.

You've Got It Bad Girl - Stevie Wonder and Syreeta Wright

Written By Stevie Wonder and Syreeta Wright, the title track to the 1973 Quincy Jones album features Quincy Jones himself on vocals.

Fly Me To The Moon - Bart Howard

"Fly Me to the Moon" was written by Bart Howard in 1954, originally in 3/4 time. Jones transformed it into 4/4 time, a faster tempo, and collaborated with the Count Basie Orchestra, adding a jazz-pop flavor. That version was played during the Apollo 10 and 11 space missions.

The Pawnbroker - Quincy Jones

Quincy Jones' first film score was 1964's The Pawnbroker, which was the first US movie that discussed the Holocaust from the viewpoint of a survivor.

Soul Bossa Nova - Quincy Jones

Big Band Bossa Nova from 1962. Mike Myers used this Quincy Jones original as the theme music for his Austin Powers series.

The First Time Ever I Saw Your Face - Ewan MacColl

From the 1973 Album "You've Got It Bad Girl." The most popular version of this song is by Roberta Flack who died this year.

Killer Joe - Benny Golson

This jazz standard was composed around 1959 and first recorded by jazz saxophonist Benny Golson. The arrangement by Quincy Jones from the 1969 album Walking In Space is iconic. Incidentally, the two opening tunes from the album Walking In Space and Dead End are from the musical "Hair."

Human Nature - Steve Porcaro (and John Bettis lyrics)

From the album Thriller by Michael Jackson. Produced by Quincy Jones and featured members of the band Toto. Written by keyboardist Steve Porcaro.

We Are The World - Michael Jackson and Lionel Richie

We Are The World is a charity single recorded by the supergroup USA for Africa in 1985. It was written by Michael Jackson and Lionel Richie and organized in an era before smartphones!

About the Artists



Imani-Grace Cooper is an American singer and songwriter whose musical background includes baptist roots, musical theater, and American and European art music. Imani-Grace's talents gained global recognition during her work with The Washington National Cathedral amidst the COVID-19 pandemic. She's been awarded multiple Downbeat Awards with her Alma Mater's premiere jazz vocal ensemble, *Afro Blue* of Howard University. Imani-Grace tours regularly with vibraphonist Warren Wolf, saxophonist Brent Birckhead, and Blue Note artist, Brandon Woody. In February 2024, Imani-Grace presented a live recording-concert

in collaboration with MECCA Filmworks and Maryland Public Television which aired on PBS, gaining national acclaim and a 2025 Emmy nomination. Imani-Grace advocates for arts in education with friends and family across the nation who desire to spread mental, physical and spiritual health through their cultural and music collective, Pyramid Projects. The most valorous agenda of the organization is to make aware the need for foundational renovations to irrigation systems in marginalized communities. To learn more about the #GoodwaterGoodpeople campaign, upcoming performances and booking visit www.Imani-Grace.com.

Marshall Keys plays the saxophone with a sense of grace and emotion that is wholly without cliché. He is a versatile musician with an expansive range, known for having a solid, soulful tone and for improvisations that begin simply before developing into elaborate, smartly constructed melodies. Keys received a National Endowment for the Arts grant and was commissioned by the Smithsonian to perform the music of Wayne Shorter. He was guest performer and lecturer at the Romare Bearden Exhibit at the National Gallery of Art. He has toured Africa and Central and South America for the State Department as a Jazz Ambassador and has played jazz festivals in the US, Germany, Ireland, Holland, Mexico, Panama, and Indonesia. Keys's recent endeavors include playing in the Washington National Cathedral Band and collaborating with saxophonist Paul Carr in the Carr/Keys project. He has worked with many of the world's fine musicians including but finds the vibrant jazz community in Washington DC to be a continuing source of inspiration and motivation.





Eric Williams is a trumpeter and bandleader based in Washington, DC. Originally from North Carolina, he has emerged as a distinctive voice in today's jazz scene, known for his lyrical sound and versatility.

Since his career began, Williams has performed and worked with artists including Sean Jones, Nicolas Payton, Ingrid Jensen, Wycliffe Gordon, Jazzmeia Horn, and Christian McBride. He is a

member of The Jazz Ambassadors, the U.S. Army's official touring big band, and performs with the Smithsonian Jazz Masterworks Orchestra. His appearances span major festivals across North America—Toronto, Ottawa, Charlotte, Carolina, and the Duck Jazz Festival—as well as international performances in Scotland, Switzerland, and Finland.

He has also been featured on PBS and NBC's Today Show, reaching audiences worldwide.

Born in Montevideo, Uruguay and raised in Buenos Aires, Argentina, where his professional career began at age 16, **Federico Peña** arrived in the US in the mid-80's to attend Berklee College of Music. He would leave Boston after two semesters to begin working with some of DC's top Go-go bands (Rare Essence, Little Benny & The Masters) and quickly began making a name for himself. A fateful meeting with young bass player Michelle Johnson - who would later become Meshell NdegéOcello - lent Federico enough visibility to go on and work with some of the most notable artists and musicians in the world.

Though he is best known for his longtime association with Me'Shell and Marcus Miller, Peña has also toured and/or recorded with Maxwell, Chaka Khan, Stanley Clarke, George Duke, Raúl Midón, Cassandra Wilson, Roy Hargrove's RH Factor, Angela Bofill, Youssou N'Dour, and others. Federico lives in Mount Rainier with his wife and their two sons.





Born and raised in Washington, DC, **Mark Prince** is one of the premier drummers in today's music scene. Honing his skills at Howard University under the legendary tutelage of the late Grady Tate, as well as maintaining a strong classical background as a National Symphony Youth Fellowship recipient, his versatility is a soughtafter attribute amongst the musical community both nationally and internationally.

Upon graduating from Howard University, Mark began a six-year stint with cutting-edge keyboardist Andy Milne and his critically acclaimed outfit, Dapp Theory. During this period, Mark also toured and recorded with Carlos Ward's Radius, Opus Akoben, Ruth Naomi Floyd, Davey Yarborough, Alex Bugnon, and Charles Fambrough, gaining a strong reputation as an extremely versatile drummer, playing styles ranging from hip-hop and R&B to contemporary and straight-ahead jazz. In addition to his own, critically acclaimed release, *Fraction of Infinity*, which showcases Mark's compositional work, he also co-leads *Firm Roots*, a powerful organ trio featuring Brad Collins and Benjie Porecki. Other recording and touring credits include Stanley Jordan, Jeff Lorber, Jennifer Holliday, Earl Klugh, Nnenna Freelon, Raul Midón, and many others.

Mikel Combs is a bassist and composer focused on American Improvised Music, performing on both electric and acoustic bass. Raised in Berlin and having lived across the continental U.S., he brings a broad perspective to his artistry. Combs has performed nationally and internationally, and holds the Doctor of Musical Arts degree, uniting performance, scholarship, and innovation in his work.





Donna Limerick, an award-winning documentary producer for over 25 years produced news and entertainment programs for National Public Radio, WETA-FM, and others. She is President and Executive Producer of North Star Communications, a radio syndication company. She has partnered on projects with Ken Burns and Henry Louis Gates, Jr. Her television and radio production credits, include Quincy Jones, Nancy Wilson, Duke Ellington, Dizzy Gillespie, Wynton Marsalis, and other jazz masters.

Donna was the Concert Producer for “Evolution of the Blues,” written by vocalist Jon Hendricks. It debuted at the Monterey Jazz Festival in 1996 and moved on to a worldwide tour featuring Jon Hendricks, Joe Williams, Diane Reeves, Abbey Lincoln, Kevin Mahogany, and trumpeter Roy Hargrove.

She is currently a lecturer/consultant with the Smithsonian’s National Museum of African American History and Culture for a permanent exhibit about her mother Mae Reeves (1912-2016), a pioneer hat designer and entrepreneur. Her clients included Ella Fitzgerald, Lena Horne, and Marion Anderson. Donna Limerick has been the executive producer for Jazz in the Gardens at Hillwood since the series began in 2021.

Maureen Monteiro is the assistant producer for North Star Communications, Inc. This company syndicates radio programs to public radio stations nationwide, as well as produces concerts and lectures for the Mae Reeves Exhibit at the National Museum of African-American History and Culture.



All photos are courtesy of the artists.