

**The Jazz Museum in Harlem  
104 East 126th Street  
New York, NY 10035  
212 348-8300**

<http://www.jazzmuseuminharlem.org/>

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: 2/06/07**

### ***National Jazz Museum in Harlem's February Schedule***

The National Jazz Museum in Harlem marches on during Black History Month with an array of programming, from its weekly adult education classes *Jazz for Curious Listeners* and weekly concert series at the Rubin Museum of Art, *Harlem in the Himalayas*, to its bi-weekly interview series *Harlem Speaks*, and the bi-weekly performance series *Harlem Swings*. There are also two very special events—the Harlem premiere of vocalist Allan Harris's Cross the River band's musical rendering and tribute to black American pioneers of the West as well as a Dedication Ceremony for the Ella Fitzgerald Black Heritage Series commemorative stamp.

**Tuesday, February 6, 2007**

#### **JAZZ for CURIOS LISTENERS**

7:00 pm | At the Metropolitan Community United Methodist Church

The National Jazz Museum in Harlem proudly announces the continuation of its free jazz course, JAZZ FOR CURIOS LISTENERS. Classes are **Tuesdays, 7 p.m. — 8:30 p.m.**, and will be led by the Museum's Executive Director Loren Schoenberg and guest instructors.

Topics covered will include:

- How to Listen to Jazz
- Classic Jazz Albums
- Harlem's Jazz Legacy
- Ellington and The Cotton Club

The location is **Metropolitan Community United Methodist Church** at 1975 Madison Avenue (NE corner of 126th And Madison). To register: <http://www.jazzmuseuminharlem.org/curious.html>.

#### **Transportation:**

Buses – M1, 60, 100, 101, Bx15  
Subways – 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 to 125th Street  
MetroNorth to 125th Street

#### **Parking:**

If you can't park on the street, there are lots on the SW corner of 126th and Park, on

Park just north of 126th, and on 126th between 3rd and Lexington.

**Wednesday, February 7, 2007**

***Special Event: Allan Harris and his "Cross That River" band***  
7:00 pm | [Metropolitan Community United Methodist Church—Free](#)

Renowned jazz vocalist Allan Harris and his "Cross That River" band will begin their 2006-2007 Chamber Music America Residency Partnership Program Grant Tour of Harlem schools and family centers. The tour is timed to coincide with Black History Month and will run through April 28.

"Cross That River" examines in dramatic fashion the history of African American pioneers in the West through the stories of cowboys, homesteaders, prairie preachers, mail order brides, gamblers and others. Written and performed by Allan Harris, along with a seven piece band, "Cross That River" will be given 14 performances/lectures at schools and family centers throughout Harlem and other areas to help raise awareness of the role African Americans played in the opening of the West.

Transportation and parking the same as Jazz for Curious Listeners above.

**Thursday, February 8, 2007**

**HARLEM SPEAKS**

***George Avakian, Record producer***  
6:30 pm | [at the Jazz Museum offices \(405 East 126<sup>th</sup> St., betw. Park and Lexington\)](#)  
[call 212-348-8300 to RSVP](#)  
[FREE](#)

*Harlem Speaks* welcomes legendary producer **George Avakian**. His contributions to jazz have been huge through the years. A jazz critic as early as 1937, Avakian wrote about jazz for *Mademoiselle* and *Pic* during 1946-48, helped revise Charles Delauney's famous Hot Discography when it was first published in the U.S. in 1948 and contributed to both *Down Beat* and *Metronome*. He pioneered both reissues (discovering previously unissued Armstrong items from the 1920's) and put together one of the first jazz albums (*Chicago Jazz*) for Decca in 1940. After World War II, he began producing jazz records for Columbia, becoming quite influential in the 1950s when he also ran the popular music department. Among the many artists who he worked closely with were Louis Armstrong, Dave Brubeck, Duke Ellington, and Miles Davis, and he frequently penned insightful liner notes. After leaving Columbia in 1958, Avakian worked for World Pacific, Warner Bros. and RCA, freelanced with many other labels, was an important supporter of the Charles Lloyd Quartet and recently celebrated over 60 years in the jazz business.

**Friday, February 9, 2007**

**HARLEM in the HIMALAYAS**

***Jon Gordon/Mark Turner***

7:00 pm | [At the Rubin Museum of Art](#)

Alto saxophonist Jon Gordon and tenor saxophonist Mark Turner lead a thrilling quartet rounded out by bassist Joe Martin and drummer Jonathan Blake. Continuing in the sax duo tradition of Dexter Gordon and Wardell Gray, Johnny Griffin and Eddie "Lockjaw" Davis, Phil Woods and Gene Quill, John Coltrane and Cannonball Adderly, these young saxophone dynamos will blow the roof off of the intimate acoustic space at the Rubin Museum of Art.

**Box Office:** 212.620.5000 ext. 344  
Rubin Museum of Art  
150 West 17<sup>th</sup> Street  
New York NY 10011

Tickets are \$15 in advance and \$20 day of the performance unless otherwise noted, and include admission to the Museum's galleries.

**Sunday, February 11, 2007**

***HARLEM SPEAKS: DUKE ELLINGTON***

Part of the [HARLEM IN THE HIMALAYAS](#) series  
[At the University of Scranton, Scranton, NJ | FREE](#)

**6:00 p.m.**

"MusicTalk" with Loren Schoenberg & George Avakian

**7:30 p.m.**

"In Concert" with The Jazz Museum in Harlem All-Stars  
(presented with funding support from Diversity Initiatives Program)

John Eckert, trumpet  
Marshall Gilkes, trombone  
Steve Wilson, alto sax  
Carl Maraghi, baritone sax  
Loren Schoenberg, piano  
Steve LaSpina, bass  
Ken Kimery, drums

**Location:** The University of Scranton Houlihan-McLean Center (Mulberry Street at Jefferson Avenue)

Please visit [the University of Scranton website](#) for further details.

**Tuesday, February 13, 2007**

**JAZZ for CURIOUS LISTENERS**

7:00 pm | [At the Metropolitan Community United Methodist Church](#)

The National Jazz Museum in Harlem's free jazz course, JAZZ FOR CURIOUS

LISTENERS, continues. The sessions are led by the Museum's Executive Director Loren Schoenberg and guest instructors.

Topics covered will include:

- How to Listen to Jazz
- Classic Jazz Albums
- Harlem's Jazz Legacy
- Ellington and The Cotton Club

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### **Thursday, February 15, 2007**

HARLEM SWINGS concert series

#### ***The Harlem Blues and Jazz Band***

7:00 pm | At Nubian Heritage, 5<sup>th</sup> Ave. at 126<sup>th</sup> St.

FREE

This large ensemble of venerable jazz musicians has performed everywhere from Harlem to Russia, playing in the tradition of the great big bands of jazz. Don't miss this chance to hear them blow the blues away!

### **Friday, February 16, 2007**

HARLEM IN THE HIMALAYAS concert series

#### ***The Jazz Museum in Harlem All-Stars playing the music of Billy Strayhorn***

7:00 pm | At the Rubin Museum of Art

As Duke Ellington's partner in composition and arranging, Billy Strayhorn left a rich body of music that stands as a starlight beacon of achievement in the American songbook. The Jazz Museum All-Stars will play well-known Strayhorn classics led by museum Executive Director Loren Schoenberg on piano.

John Eckert, trumpet  
Vincent Gardner, trombone  
Steve Wilson, alto sax  
Jay Brandford, baritone sax  
Loren Schoenberg, piano  
Steve LaSpina, bass  
Ken Kimery, drums

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Rubin Museum of Art  
150 West 17<sup>th</sup> Street

New York NY 10011

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**Tuesday, February 20, 2007, 11am**

***Special Event:*** Stamp Dedication Ceremony for the Ella Fitzgerald Black Heritage Series commemorative stamp

The Postal Service honors Ella Fitzgerald as the 30th inductee into its Black Heritage stamp series. Fitzgerald (1917-1996) was widely known as "The First Lady of Song." Her extraordinary vocal range and flexibility, combined with her gift for pitch, rhythmic sense, and flawless diction, made her a favorite of fans, songwriters and other singers. The stamp portrait, based on a photograph taken circa 1956, is by famed illustrator Paul Davis, who captured the joy and excitement that Fitzgerald brought to her music.

The ceremony takes place at Nubian Heritage, located at 2037 Fifth Avenue, off of 126<sup>th</sup> St, and begins at 11 am.

**Tuesday, February 20, 2007**

**JAZZ for CURIOUS LISTENERS**

7:00 pm | [At the Metropolitan Community United Methodist Church](#)

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**Thursday, February 22, 2007**

HARLEM SPEAKS

***Bill Hughes, Trombonist/Band leader***

6:30 pm | [at the Jazz Museum offices](#)

call 212-348-8300 to RSVP

FREE

Trombonist **Bill Hughes**, or "Mr. B" as he's affectionately called by the younger members, joined the Count Basie Orchestra in September, 1953 on a recommendation by the legendary saxophonist/flautist Frank Wess.

A 1952 product of Howard University School of Pharmacy and self-taught trombonist, Hughes had previously performed with Wess in variously sized groups and in a house band Wess led at the world famous Howard Theater in Washington, DC. At that same time Hughes was invited to join the Duke Ellington Orchestra but chose Basie where he would be more comfortable with friends like Frank, Eddie Jones and Benny Powell.

Hughes played the tenor trombone in a three-man section, which included Henry Coker and Powell. This section was at one time acclaimed as the best trombone section in jazz and their names appeared in several polls then popular in jazz magazines. During this period Hughes traveled the world with Basie, including the very first trip to Europe for the orchestra. It was also during this time period Basie was to record several of his timeless hits including "Shiny Stockings", "Corner Pocket" and the famous rendition of the classic "April In Paris."

From September 1953 until September of 1957 Hughes performed continuously with The Count Basie Orchestra. He took a 6 year break from touring to help raise his family and returned to the road in July 1963 where he has since remained. "Mr. B" took over the directorship of the ensemble in 2004.

### **Friday, February 23, 2007**

HARLEM IN THE HIMALAYAS concert series  
[7:00 pm | At the Rubin Museum of Art](#)

*New York premiere of a song cycle composed by Frank Carlberg and set to poems by Buddhist poet Robert Creeley.*

Now living in Brooklyn, Finnish-born pianist and composer **Frank Carlberg** has developed a musical vision that blends aspects of Thelonious Monk and Charles Mingus with contemporary classical and avant-garde influences. He has won numerous awards, performed all over the world with the likes of Steve Lacy, George Garzone, Ron McClure, the Either/Orchestra, and Christine Correa, and taught at Berklee College of Music, New England Conservatory, and Oulunkyla Jazz Conservatory.

Carlberg's debut as a leader came in 1993 with *Blind Drive*. *Ugly Beauty*, a duo recording with Christine Correa, followed in 1994. A quintet session titled *Crazy Woman* followed in 1996. *Variations on a Summer Day*, Carlberg's particularly ambitious 2000 effort, is a song cycle for jazz ensemble and voice based entirely on the text of a poem by Wallace Stevens. Carlberg has composed close to one hundred songs to texts by 20th century poets. His latest recording, *In the Land of Art*, was released by Fresh Sound Records in 2003.

One of the most significant American poets of the 20th century, the late

**Robert Creeley** published more than 60 books of poetry, numerous essays and articles and more than a dozen books of prose. His numerous honors include two Fulbright fellowships, a Guggenheim fellowship, Yale University's biennial Bollingen Prize in Poetry and a National Book Award nomination.

Mr. Creeley liked to cite the influence on his writing of Abstract Expressionist painting and such jazz musicians as Charlie Parker and Miles Davis. Jazz taught him, he once wrote, that "you can write directly from that which you feel." His free verse poetry emphasized the personal, the lyric, the improvisatory.

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Rubin Museum of Art  
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New York NY 10011

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**Tuesday, February 27, 2007**

**JAZZ for CURIOUS LISTENERS**

7:00 pm | [At the Metropolitan Community United Methodist Church](#)

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