



Celebrity Series of Boston

Engaging • Entertaining • Enriching

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For Immediate Release

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Celebrity Series of Boston

Martha H. Jones, President and Executive Director

Presents

Monterey Jazz Festival on Tour

featuring

Regina Carter, violin

Kurt Elling, vocals

Russell Malone, guitar

Kenny Barron, piano

**on Thursday, February 11 at 8pm
at Berklee Performance Center**

(Boston) Celebrity Series of Boston will present the **Monterey Jazz Festival on Tour** on Thursday, February 11 at 8pm at the Berklee Performance Center, 136 Massachusetts Avenue. This tour brings **violinist Regina Carter, vocalist Kurt Elling, guitarist Russell Malone, and pianist Kenny Barron** together. The quartet most recently performed together as The Monterey Jazz Festival All Stars at the 2009 festival. Bassist Kiyoshi Kitagawa and drummer Johnathan Blake will complete the ensemble. This performance is sponsored by Tufts Health Plan.

Regina Carter made her **Celebrity Series of Boston** debut in 2002 with her own quintet and the Stefan Harris Quartet in a double bill in 2002. Carter returned in 2007 with Dee Dee Bridgewater. Kurt Elling, Russell Malone, and Kenny Barron are all making their Celebrity Series Debut.

Regina Carter was introduced to the violin through the Suzuki method. She was a member of both the Detroit Civic Symphony Orchestra as well as local pop groups before studying classical and African-America music at the New England Conservatory and Oakland University in Michigan. She got her start with the quartet Straight Ahead, with whom she released two albums before going solo in 1994. She went on to win acclaim for her solos on Wynton Marsalis' *Blood On The Fields* tour in 1997, and Cassandra Wilson's *Travelin' Miles* concert, at New York's Lincoln Center in 1998.

In addition to leading a quintet, Carter also performs programs of music for jazz quintet and orchestra. She has appeared with the Minnesota Orchestra, Atlanta Symphony, and the Milwaukee Symphony, among others. In December 2001, Ms. Carter became the first jazz artist and the first African-American to be chosen to play Paganini's famed Guarneri "Cannon" violin, in the city of Genoa, Italy, where it resides under lock and key. She subsequently went back to Genoa to employ the use of the Paganini violin for her recording, *Paganini: After a Dream*. In May 2002, she appeared in a special Boston Pops program, which featured her quintet as well as the world premiere performance of Chris Brubeck's *Interplay* for three violinists.

(more)

Just as prolific as her accomplishments on stage are Carter's performances on record. Included in her discography, along with recordings with Patti Labelle and Aretha Franklin, are recordings with vocalist Cassandra Wilson, trombonist Steve Turre, pianists Kenny Barron and Danilo Perez, and guitarist Rodney Jones. Her most recent album, *I'll Be Seeing You: A Sentimental Journey*, features standards from the 1930s and 1940s that were favorites of Carter's mother. In 2006 Carter won a MacArthur Foundation grant.

Kurt Elling's rich baritone voice spans four octaves and displays an astonishing technical facility and emotional depth. His repertoire ranges from his own compositions to modern interpretations of standards, both of which can be the springboard for free form improvisation, scatting, spoken word and poetry. One of Kurt Elling's major contributions is as a writer and performer of vocalese, the art of putting words to improvised solos of jazz artists. Elling often infuses his lyrics with images and references from writers such as Rilke, Proust, Kerouac, Rumi, Neruda and Kenneth Rexroth.

In addition to working with his own quartet, Kurt Elling has recorded and performed with an array of artists that includes Terrence Blanchard, Dave Brubeck, Benny Golson, Jon Hendricks, Fred Hersch, Charlie Hunter, Al Jarreau, Joe Lovano, Christian McBride, Marian McPartland, Mark Murphy, John Pizzarelli, Kurt Rosenwinkel, and The Yellowjackets. He has written multidisciplinary works of art for The Steppenwolf Theater and for the City Of Chicago. Elling was artist-in-residence for the Monterey Jazz Festival's 2006 season. He has released 7 albums, including his most recent, *Nightmoves*.

Russell Malone was born on November 8, 1963 in Albany, Georgia. He became a self-taught guitarist influenced by players such as B.B. King, Wes Montgomery, George Benson, Kenny Burrell, and dozens of others whom he discovered through voracious research. Russell first worked with master jazz organist Jimmy Smith in 1988, and between 1990 and 1994 toured with Harry Connick, Jr. During the late nineties Malone toured internationally with Diana Krall, receiving critical acclaim in his role as Diana's right hand both in concert and on her recordings. Russell has also shared the stage with artists such as Eddie "Cleanhead" Vinson, Claude Fiddler Williams, Bucky Pizzarelli, Jack McDuff, John Hicks, Clarence Carter, Little Anthony, Freddie Cole, Mulgrew Miller, Kenny Barron, Roy Hargrove, Cyrus Chestnut and Patti Austin. Malone was also a featured performer in Robert Altman's 1996 film *Kansas City*. Malone has made six albums as an ensemble leader, and has also been featured prominently on recordings by Branford Marsalis, Benny Green, Kenny Barron, Don Braden and Etta Jones.

Kenny Barron was born in Philadelphia in 1943 and while a teenager, started playing professionally with Mel Melvin's orchestra. This local band also featured Barron's brother Bill, the late tenor saxophonist. By 1959, Kenny had worked with drummer Philly Joe Jones while still in high school. At age 19, Kenny moved to New York City and freelanced with Roy Haynes, Lee Morgan and James Moody after the tenor saxophonist heard him play at the Five Spot. Upon Moody's recommendation Dizzy Gillespie hired Barron in 1962 without even hearing him play a note. It was in Dizzy's band that Kenny developed an appreciation for Latin and Caribbean rhythms. After five years with Dizzy, Barron played with Freddie Hubbard, Stanley Turrentine, Milt Jackson, and Buddy Rich. The early seventies found Kenny working with Yusef Lateef who Kenny credits as a key influence in his art of improvisation. Encouraged by Lateef, to pursue a college education, Barron balanced touring with studies and earned his B.A. in Music from Empire State College. By 1973, Kenny joined the faculty at Rutgers University as professor of music. He held this tenure until 2000, mentoring many of today's young talents including David Sanchez, Terence Blanchard and Regina Bell. In 1974, Kenny recorded his first album as a leader, entitled *Sunset To Dawn*. This was to be the first in over 40 recordings as a leader. Following stints with Ron Carter in the late seventies, Kenny formed a trio with Buster Williams and Ben Riley. Throughout the 80's, Barron collaborated with the great tenor saxophonist Stan Getz, touring with his quartet and recording several legendary albums. Also during the 80's, he co-founded the quartet "Sphere," along with Buster Williams, Ben Riley and Charlie Rouse. Barron now tours and records solo, with his Trio, and with his Brazilian jazz ensemble, Canta Brasil.

The program for the Monterey Jazz Festival on Tour performance on February 11 will be announced from the stage.

TICKETING INFORMATION

Remaining tickets for the Monterey Jazz Festival on Tour are priced at \$39, and are available by calling CelebrityCharge at (617) 482-6661 Monday-Friday 10:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m., online at www.celebrityseries.org, or at the.

About Celebrity Series of Boston

The Celebrity Series of Boston is New England's leading presenter of music, dance, and the performing arts from around the world. Now in its 71st season, the Celebrity Series brings performances by instrumental and vocal soloists, orchestras and chamber ensembles, dance companies, jazz, folk and ethnic artists and ensembles to Boston's major concert halls, reaching an audience of some 100,000 each year. Through the Arts, Education and Community Program the Celebrity Series reaches thousands of youngsters annually with opportunities to experience and participate in the performing arts through concerts, workshops and the award-winning AileyCamp Boston, an intensive six-week summer dance program for Boston middle school students. For more information on Celebrity Series of Boston, call (617) 482-2595 or visit us online at www.celebrityseries.org.

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