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## MONTEREY JAZZ FESTIVAL ON TOUR

*Knight Theater – February 26, 2010*

[www.montereyjazzfestival.org](http://www.montereyjazzfestival.org)

**Band features Kenny Barron, Regina Carter, Russell Malone,  
Kurt Elling, Kiyoshi Kitagawa, and Johnathan Blake**

### TICKETS ON SALE NOW

The Monterey Jazz Festival, a leader in jazz education and presentation since 1958, announces the **thirty-six show, nationwide, six-week tour of the Monterey Jazz Festival All-Stars, billed as the [Monterey Jazz Festival on Tour](#).**

The band will perform on **Friday, February 26, 2010, at 8 PM at the Knight Theater, in Charlotte, North Carolina.** Presented by the **North Carolina Blumenthal Performing Arts Center**, the group features the nine-time Grammy®-nominated and 2010 NEA Jazz Master **Kenny Barron** on piano; Grammy-nominated violinist **Regina Carter**; Grammy-winning guitarist **Russell Malone**; nine-time Grammy-nominated vocalist **Kurt Elling**; bassist **Kiyoshi Kitagawa**; and Grammy-nominated drummer **Johnathan Blake**. The band made their debut at the 52nd Annual Monterey Jazz Festival Presented by Verizon in September 2009.

Tickets are on sale now and can be purchased online at [BlumenthalCenter.org](http://BlumenthalCenter.org), by phone at 704-372-1000, or from the Blumenthal Performing Arts Center Box Office located in the Tryon Street lobby of the Belk Theater.

Members of the MJF All-Stars have a special relationship with the Monterey Jazz Festival, and have a commitment to the cultivation of jazz audiences worldwide. Pianist **Kenny Barron** made his first of his eight appearances at MJF in the early 1960s with Dizzy Gillespie. Violinist **Regina Carter** was selected as Artist-In-Residence for MJF/47 in 2004 and has appeared at the Festival four times since 1999. Vocalist **Kurt Elling**, also selected as MJF's Artist-In-Residence for MJF/49 in 2006, has appeared on the stages of the Festival four times since 2003. Guitarist **Russell Malone** has appeared five times at MJF since 1997. Both bassist **Kiyoshi Kitagawa** and drummer **Johnathan Blake** made their second appearances at MJF/52. All together, the members of the MJF/52 All-Star group have performed at Monterey twenty-five times.

"With the success of our 50th Anniversary Tour in 2008 and the subsequent Grammy win a year later for Terence Blanchard for the live recording at MJF/50, we were anxious to continue the spirit and excitement created by the inaugural event and build an even stronger platform for 2010's 'MJF On Tour,'" said **Tim Jackson**, General Manager for the Monterey Jazz Festival. "With Kenny Barron (piano), Regina Carter (violin), Kurt Elling (vocal), and Russell Malone (guitar) as this year's principal artists and with the superb support of Kenny's working trio, Kiyoshi Kitagawa on bass and drummer Johnathan Blake, we have created an ensemble that is both sonically interesting and hard swinging. These artists all embody the history, spirit, and legacy of the Monterey Jazz Festival; each has a past relationship with MJF that includes performance and educational activities, both core components of Monterey's mission statement. They are an amazing band that will embody the past, present, and future of jazz."

#### **About The Tour**

The **Monterey Jazz Festival On Tour** will perform a **36-show, 17-state tour, from February - May 2010** at major performing arts organizations in many regions of the county, including **Alabama, Arizona, California, Connecticut, Georgia, Illinois, Massachusetts, Maryland, Michigan, North Carolina, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania, Virginia, Washington, and Wisconsin**. For a complete tour itinerary, visit [www.montereyjazzfestival.org](http://www.montereyjazzfestival.org). Each of the shows will feature a selection of standards and originals from all periods of jazz.

This will be the second time a national tour has represented MJF. In early 2008, the **Monterey Jazz Festival 50th Anniversary All-Stars** (featuring **Terence Blanchard, James Moody, Benny Green, Nnenna Freelon, Derrick Hodge, and Kendrick Scott**) performed for 44,000 fans in 52 cities in 22 states. A recording on **Monterey Jazz**

**Festival Records** -- an imprint of Concord Records -- from their performance at MJF/50, *Live at the 2007 Monterey Jazz Festival*, was nominated for two Grammys, (**Terence Blanchard** and **James Moody** were both nominated in the Best Jazz Instrumental Solo Category) with the Grammy going to Terence Blanchard on February 8, 2009, making it the first Grammy for the fledgling label.

### **About the MJF/52 All-Stars**

Pianist and NEA Jazz Master **Kenny Barron** has an unmatched ability to mesmerize audiences with his elegant playing, sensitive melodies and infectious rhythms is what inspired the *Los Angeles Times* to name him "one of the top jazz pianists in the world." Dizzy Gillespie hired Barron in 1962, and he has also performed with Freddie Hubbard, Stanley Turrentine, Milt Jackson, Buddy Rich, Yusef Lateef, and many more. From 1974 to 2000, Kenny was on the faculty at Rutgers University as professor of music, and has mentored many of today's young talents including David Sanchez, Terence Blanchard, and Regina Bell. Kenny was inducted into the American Jazz Hall of Fame in 2005, and in 2009, he was named a Living Legacy by the Mid Atlantic Arts Foundation. He has recorded over 40 albums as a leader, and has earned 9 Grammy nominations. He was selected as a National Endowment for the Arts Jazz Master for 2010, the nation's highest honor in jazz.

Grammy-nominated drummer and composer **Johnathan Blake**, has been working steadily in the contemporary jazz scene for the past 10 years, and is the first-call drummer for many notable jazz musicians such as Tom Harrell, David Sanchez, Russell Malone, Kenny Barron, Randy Brecker, and Oliver Lake, to name a few. Eventually attending William Paterson University in New Jersey and studying with Rufus Reid, John Riley, Steve Wilson, and Horace Arnold, he also was gigging professionally with the Oliver Lake Big Band, Roy Hargrove, and David Sanchez. By 2007, Johnathan received a Master's degree from the Rutgers University, studying with Ralph Bowen, Conrad Herwig, and Stanley Cowell, primarily focusing on his compositional skills. Johnathan is currently a member of the Tom Harrell Quintet, the Russell Malone Quartet, and he performs regularly with Kenny Barron, Avishai Cohen, and Omer Avital.

**Regina Carter** began performing on violin at the age of four. Regina attended Detroit's prestigious Cass Technical High School. Upon graduating, she departed for the New England Conservatory of Music, only to return to Michigan's Oakland University, seasoning her chops by gigging with several local musicians. By 1994, she had returned to New York, recording two solo albums for Atlantic while also working with the String Trio of New York, Muhal Richard Abrams, and Greg Tate and the Black Rock Coalition. Carter joined Verve Records in 1998. She has released the critically acclaimed works *Regina Carter*, *Something For Grace*, *Rhythms of the Heart*, *Motor City Moments*, *Freefall* (a collaboration with pianist Kenny Barron that was nominated for a Grammy in 2001); *Paganini: After a Dream*, and *I'll Be Seeing You: A Sentimental Journey*. Her latest, *Reverse Thread*, will be released in January 2010. Her playing has appeared on filmmaker Ken Burns' soundtrack for the PBS documentary, *Jazz*; Wynton Marsalis' opera *Blood on the Fields*; Cassandra Wilson's *Traveling Miles*; Mary J. Blige's *My Life*; and Latin Jazz pianist Eddie Palmieri on his Grammy-winning *Listen Here*.

**Kurt Elling** is the preeminent young male jazz singer today. A ten-year stretch saw Elling earn seven Grammy nominations for six Blue Note albums, six consecutive years at the top of the *DownBeat* Critics and *Jazz Times* Readers' polls, three Jazz Journalists' Association Awards for Best Male Vocalist and the Prix Billie Holiday from the Academie du Jazz in Paris. His quartet has toured the world, performing to critical acclaim in Europe, the Middle East, South America, Asia and Australia, and at jazz festivals and concert halls across the North America. In addition to working with his own quartet, Kurt Elling has spent recording and/or performing time with an array of artists that includes Terence Blanchard, Dave Brubeck, the Clayton-Hamilton Orchestra, Benny Golson, Jon Hendricks, Fred Hersch, Charlie Hunter, Al Jarreau, David Liebman, Joe Lovano, Christian McBride, Marian McPartland, the Bob Mintzer Big Band, Mark Murphy, John Pizzarelli, Kurt Rosenwinkel, and the Yellowjackets. In 2007, he signed to Concord Records, recording *Nightmoves*. In 2009, Kurt received his ninth Grammy nomination for *Dedicated to You: Kurt Elling Sings the Music of Coltrane and Hartman* for Best Jazz Vocal Album.

Bassist and composer **Kiyoshi Kitagawa** is an integral part of today's jazz scene. Soon after moving to New York City from Japan, he met Winard Harper at Blue Note's jam session and joined the Harper Brothers, recording on the *Remembrance: Live at The Village Vanguard*. Kiyoshi has toured and recorded with the alto great Kenny Garrett with drummer Brian Blade. He has gone on to work with many of the leading names in jazz including Steve Turre, Tommy Flanagan, and Kenny Kirkland just to name a few. In 1996, he formed "The Trio" with the versatile Japanese pianist, Makoto Ozone, releasing four albums together. Most recently, Kiyoshi has been touring the world with bands led by three jazz greats: the Jimmy Heath Quartet, the Kenny Barron Trio and Quintet, and the Andy Bey Quartet.

Born in Albany, Georgia, guitarist **Russell Malone** grew up playing a variety of music. In 1988, he was hired as a sideman by the seminal organist Jimmy Smith. He went on to back the popular pianist and vocalist, Harry Connick Jr. from 1990-1994. Malone first recorded as a leader in 1992, when he provided his self-titled debut album for

Columbia, *Russell Malone*, which quickly went to #1 on the radio charts and was followed by *Black Butterfly* in 1993 and *Wholly Cats* for Japan's Venus label in 1995. Malone joined pianist and vocalist Diana Krall in 1995, contributing to Krall's first three Grammy-nominated albums, including 1999's *When I Look In Your Eyes*. Verve Records released three albums by Malone, including *Sweet Georgia Peach* for Impulse! in 1998, *Look Who's Here* in 1999, and *Heartstrings* in 2001. Malone has had the honor of launching the "Strings Series" for the MAXJAZZ label with his 2004 label debut *Playground*, which was followed by 2006's *Live At Jazz Standard, Volume One*, and 2007's *Live At Jazz Standard, Volume Two*.

### **About the Monterey Jazz Festival**

The Monterey Jazz Festival, founded in 1958, is a nonprofit organization and is dedicated to perpetuating the uniquely American form of music known as jazz by producing performances that celebrate the legacy and expand the boundaries of jazz; and by presenting year-round local, regional, national, and international jazz education programs. These hands-on, cutting-edge educational components include the Traveling Clinician and Latin Jazz Programs, with professional musicians visiting Monterey County schools to teach students how to play and improvise in jazz and Latin styles; the Artist-In-Residence Program, which brings a leading jazz performer to work with students throughout the year; the MJF Summer Jazz Camp, the MJF Instrument and Sheet Music Library, the MJF Digital Music Education Project, the Next Generation Festival, the Monterey County High School All-Star Band, the MJF Middle School Honor Band and MJF Vocal Jazz Ensemble, and the Next Generation Jazz Orchestra. The 53rd Annual Monterey Jazz Festival Presented by Verizon will take place September 17 - 19, 2010, and will feature the four-time Grammy-winning vocalist, Dianne Reeves, as Artist-In-Residence.

To download pictures as high resolution JPGs for print, bios, video clips, and other material, please visit <http://www.montereyjazzfestival.org/2009/tour>

### **CALENDAR LISTING**

**Friday, February 26 – Charlotte, NC**

**Presenter:** Blumenthal Performing Arts Center

**Program:** Monterey Jazz Festival on Tour

**Location /Address /Time:** Knight Theater, 430 S. Tryon St., Charlotte, NC 28202

8:00 p.m.

**Ticket prices:** begin at \$39

**Phone number / url:** 704-372-1000 / [www.BlumenthalCenter.org](http://www.BlumenthalCenter.org)

### **ABOUT THE BLUMENTHAL PERFORMING ARTS CENTER**

The North Carolina Blumenthal Performing Arts Center serves the Carolinas as a leading cultural, entertainment and education provider. For more information, call (704) 372-1000 or visit [BlumenthalCenter.org](http://BlumenthalCenter.org). The Center receives operating support from the Arts & Science Council and the North Carolina Arts Council. The Center is also supported through the generous aid of its sponsors, including U.S. Airways, Official Airline of Blumenthal Performing Arts Center; Presbyterian Hospital, the preferred healthcare provider for the Blumenthal Performing Arts Center; and Duke Energy, sponsor of the Duke Energy Broadway Lights Series.

  
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