

## Jazz at Lincoln Center's Annual Fall Gala 2006 Guest Artists

### Patti Austin

Patti Austin, the daughter of a jazz trombonist and goddaughter of musical legends Quincy Jones and Dinah Washington, made her stage debut at the world-famous Apollo Theater in Harlem. During the 70s her voice was heard on literally hundreds of commercials, behind various artists including Paul Simon, Diana Ross and many more. Her debut album included the chart-topping hit "Baby Come To Me," a duet with James Ingram

Ms. Austin crosses all musical genres; she has made 16 solo albums, and has performed her award-nominated hit songs at the Grammy's and the Oscars.

In recent years, Ms. Austin has performed extensively throughout the Far East and has also devoted time to performing for AIDS-related organizations. She has made TV guest appearances and co-created the musical extravaganza *Beboperella*, a modern-day, music-driven show that brings the sound and spirit of bebop to a new generation. She also is the co-creator of *Oh Freedom*, a show exploring the African-American quest for freedom and equality in America. Ms. Austin continues to create milestones throughout her incredible career; she is a true artist whose creativity knows no limits.

### Ed Bradley

Mr. Bradley is currently a CBS News Correspondent and Co-Editor of 60 Minutes.

He joined 60 Minutes during the 1981-82 season. Prior to that, he had worked for CBS Reports and CBS Sunday Night News, having begun working for CBS in September 1971.

During his tenure at CBS, awards he has won include four Alfred I. DuPont-Columbia University Silver Baton awards, Overseas Press Club Award, three George Foster Peabody awards, Ohio State University, George Polk Award in Journalism and multiple Emmy Awards.

Ed Bradley was born in Philadelphia, PA and has a BS in education from Cheyney (PA) State College.

### Michael Feinstein

Michael Feinstein, one of the premiere interpreters of American popular song, has been a household name since the success of his 1988 one-man Broadway show, *Isn't It Romantic*. He enjoys an active performance calendar, including major concert halls, symphony orchestras, intimate jazz clubs and college campuses. More than a mere performer, he is nationally recognized for his commitment to the American popular song, both celebrating its art and preserving its legacy for the next generation.

Michael is currently producing a CD for his friend Liza Minnelli based on the music of her godmother Kay Thompson, the famed author, singer and arranger. He will also host and serve as consultant on a new PBS film on vintage Hollywood "Soundies" and is producing a documentary feature on arts and society icon Kitty Carlisle Hart. He has written the score for a new stage musical *Perspectives*, opening soon in London's West End.

His latest CD from Concord Records is *Hopeless Romantics*, a songbook of Harry Warren classics recorded with legendary jazz pianist George Shearing. In 2004, Michael completed a national tour with songwriting icon Jimmy Webb based on their CD, *Only One Life - The Songs of Jimmy Webb*. The disc was named one of "10 Best CDs of the Year" by *USA Today*.

In 2003, Michael received his fourth Grammy Award nomination for his Concord release, *Michael Feinstein with the Israel Philharmonic Orchestra*, his first recording with a symphony orchestra. The year before, Rhino/Elektra Music released *The Michael Feinstein Anthology*, a 2-disc compilation spanning the years 1987 to 1996, featuring old favorites and previously unreleased tracks.

He hosted and produced *The Great American Songbook*, a PBS Special and DVD set from Warner Brothers Home Video that traces the history of popular music in our country. The program, which debuted at the Palm Springs Film Festival, was released last year. His own record label Feinery, a new Concord subsidiary, released *The Livingston & Evans Songbook*, featuring Feinstein and special guest Melissa Manchester. Feinery will also record favorite current artists and restore recordings & musical broadcasts from the golden age of popular song, many of which showcase some of the nation's most admired and enduring entertainers.

His Manhattan nightclub, Feinstein's at the Regency, has presented the top talents of pop and jazz such as Rosemary Clooney, Steve Tyrell, Barbara Cook, Tony Danza, Ann Hampton Callaway and Dame Cleo Laine. He appears there for a sold-out holiday engagement every year. Last fall he completed a sold-out two week engagement at the Theatre Royal Haymarket in London's West End.

Michael started playing piano by ear when he was five. As a teenager, he played at weddings and parties in Columbus, Ohio. After graduating from high school, he worked in local piano lounges for two years, moving to Los Angeles when he was 20. Through the widow of legendary concert pianist-actor Oscar Levant, he was introduced to Ira Gershwin in July 1977. He became his assistant for six years, granting him access to numerous unpublished Gershwin songs, which he has since performed and recorded.

Gershwin's influence provided a solid base upon which Mr. Feinstein has not only evolved into a captivating performer, composer and arranger of his own original music, but has also become an unparalleled interpreter of music legends such as Irving Berlin, Jerome Kern, Johnny Mercer, Duke Ellington and Harry Warren.

Through his live performances (from Hollywood Bowl to Carnegie Hall), recordings, film and television appearances, and his songwriting (in collaboration with Alan and Marilyn Bergman, Lindy Robbins and Carole Bayer Sager), Feinstein has been an important musical force during the past 15 years. In addition, he scored the original music for the film *Get Bruce*. His television credits include performances on "Caroline in the City," "Melrose Place," "Coach," and "Sybil."

In 1998 Feinstein became a Concord Records artist where he has recorded *Michael and George: Feinstein Sings Gershwin*, *Big City Rhythms* (with the Maynard Ferguson Big Band), the double-CD *Romance On Film, Romance On Broadway*, among others. The Library of Congress recently elected Michael to the exclusive "National Sound Recording Advisory Board." He and other industry leaders recently met in Washington D.C. for a forum on safeguarding America's musical heritage.

### **Kitty Carlisle Hart**

Kitty Carlisle Hart is an actress and singer with a long record of achievement in the arts and public service. She was born in New Orleans and educated in Europe, Switzerland, the Sorbonne in France and England, where she studied acting in London at the Royal Academy of Dramatic Art.

Ms. Hart's first appearance on Broadway was in "Champagne Sec." In opera she created the role of Lucretia in "The Rape of Lucretia." Her film appearances include a starring role in the classic "A Night at the Opera" with the Marx Brothers.

Ms. Hart has taken a particular interest in the role of women in society.

Ms. Hart received the National Medal of Arts from President George Bush in 1991. She is now an Honorary Trustee of the Metropolitan Museum of Art and the Museum of Modern Art.

Kitty Carlisle Hart is Chairman Emeritus of the New York State Council on the Arts.

Ms. Hart is the author of "Kitty: An Autobiography." Her current offering, "My Life on the Wicked Stage," is being showcased throughout the U.S. to standing ovations and stellar reviews. Ms. Hart continues to be active in arts organizations.

### **Angela Lansbury**

Angela Lansbury has enjoyed a career without precedent. Her professional career spans more than half-a-century, during which she has flourished, first as a star of motion pictures, then as a four-time Tony Award-winning Broadway musical star, and most recently as the star of television.

Ms. Lansbury was born in London on October 16, 1925 and landed her first acting job at 16 in a Cabaret. The next year, Ms. Lansbury landed a seven-year contract at MGM.

Through her career, Ms. Lansbury has appeared in 44 motion pictures; including such classics as "Samson and Delilah," "The Long Hot Summer" and "The Manchurian Candidate." She also provided the voice of Mrs. Potts in Disney's "Beauty and the Beast." She has starred in Broadway hits such as, "Mame," "Gypsy," "Sweeney Todd" and "The King and I." Ms. Lansbury found her largest audience on television playing Jessica Fletcher in "Murder, She Wrote."

Ms. Lansbury has been inducted into the Theatre and T.V. Hall of Fames, received a Lifetime Achievement from the British Academy of Film and Television Arts, the Lifetime Achievement award from the Screen Actors Guild and the National Medal of the Arts. She has been nominated for 16 Emmy, won six Golden Globe Awards.

### **Brian Stokes Mitchell**

Dubbed "The Last Leading Man" by the New York Times, Brian Stokes Mitchell has enjoyed a rich and varied career on Broadway, television and film, along with appearances in the great American concert halls.

His musical versatility has kept him in demand by some of the country's finest conductors and orchestras. He has performed selections from "Porgy and Bess" with Michael Tilson Thomas and the San Francisco Symphony at Carnegie Hall; Performed works by Aaron Copland and various contemporary composers at the

Hollywood Bowl with the L.A. Philharmonic under the batons of Leonard Slatkin and John Mauceri; Broadway tunes at Carnegie Hall and the Kennedy Center in Washington DC under the baton of Marvin Hamlisch (most recently at the National Symphony Orchestra's 75th season Pops concert debut), and Jazz and standards with Maestro John Williams at Disney Hall and with the Boston Pops. He recently debuted Pulitzer prize winning composer David Del Tredici's "Rip Van Winkle" with the National Symphony Orchestra under the baton of Leonard Slatkin.

He reprised his Tanglewood performance in John Williams' Jazz version of "My Fair Lady" last December at Disney Hall singing with Dianne Reeves. In 2005 he made his cabaret debut as both singer and musical arranger in New York at Feinstein's at the Regency in his critically acclaimed one-man show "Love/Life" which then moved to the Vivian Beaumont Theater at Lincoln Center. He received both the New York Bistro and Nightlife awards for his cabaret debut.

In June he headlined the Carnegie Hall concert presentation of Rodgers and Hammerstein's "South Pacific" with Reba McEntire, which will aired on PBS in the Spring of 2006. It was released on DVD on June 6, 2006.

His Broadway career includes performances in "Man of La Mancha" (Tony nomination and Helen Hayes Award); "Kiss Me Kate" (Tony, Drama Desk and Outer Critics Circle Awards); "Ragtime" (Tony nomination); August Wilson's "King Hedley II" (Tony nomination); "Kiss of the Spider Woman;" "Jelly's Last Jam;" David Merrick's "Oh, Kay!" and "Mail," which earned him a Theatre World award for outstanding Broadway Debut.

At Encores he has starred in "Do, Re, Mi" and "Carnival" and this last season starred in "Kismet." In 1998 he joined the likes of Helen Hayes, Sir John Gielgud, Alec Guinness and James Earl Jones when he became the sole recipient of that year's Distinguished Performance Award from the Drama League, the nation's oldest theatrical honor, for his performance in "Ragtime."

His long television career began with a seven year stint on "Trapper John, MD." Numerous film and TV appearances more recently include "One Last Thing" which debuted at this year's Toronto Film Festival, recurring roles on "Crossing Jordan" and "Frasier," PBS' "Great Performances," DreamWorks' "The Prince of Egypt," and his "Presidential Debut" in "The Singer and the Song" from the White House.

His latest venture is his June 6, 2006 release of his [self-titled album](#) as the inaugural artist on the newly-formed Playbill Records label. In addition to singing, Stokes produced the album and also wrote many of the arrangements and orchestrations. The executive producers are Playbill Record's president, Philip Birsh and Richard-Jay Alexander. It was mixed by 15-time Grammy winner Al Schmitt and the liner notes were penned by John Williams. For more information, visit [www.Playbillrecords.com](http://www.Playbillrecords.com)

Stokes has enjoyed working with numerous charitable organizations from the March of Dimes to the USO and is President of the [Actors' Fund](#). For more information please check [www.Brianstokes.com](http://www.Brianstokes.com).

### **Marcus Roberts**

Famed jazz pianist Marcus Roberts is renowned for his ability to address the entire history of jazz piano while performing in his own distinctive style. Roberts, who lost his sight at the age of five, began teaching himself to play piano at age eight. Roberts studied classical piano at Florida State University with Leonidus Lipovetsky, during which time he won many awards and competitions, including a young artist's competition at the National Association of Jazz Educators' 1982 Chicago Conference. After four years at Florida State, Mr. Roberts left to tour with Wynton Marsalis' Quartet for six years. He signed his first recording contract in 1988 and subsequently enjoyed the distinction of

being the first jazz musician to have his first three recordings reach No. 1 on Billboard's traditional jazz chart. Mr. Roberts has released over a dozen acclaimed recordings, including *Deep in the Shed*, *Blues for the New Millenium*, *Gershwin for Lovers*, *Portraits in Blue*, *In Honor of Duke*, and more. Roberts has toured the U.S. and Europe both as a soloist as well as with his septet and trio, which includes drummer Jason Marsalis and bassist Roland Guerin. Mr. Roberts and his trio are active in jazz education and regularly teach master classes and workshops for students from the elementary school level to college jazz ensembles. Roberts was Artist-in-Residence for the 2002 Winter Olympics. Roberts new CD is entitled *New Orleans Meets Harlem*.