

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: DECEMBER 15, 2009 [REVISED 1/19/10]



**THE BEATS OF NYC:
JAZZ, DANCE, POETRY, & SPOKEN WORD**

World Premiere of New Music, Choreography, and Poetry Featuring Ali Jackson, Jr., drums, music director; Marc Cary, piano; Ben Williams, bass; Lionel Loueke, guitar; Andrew Daniels and Adewole Love, percussion; Dancers: Hope Boykin and her dance company HopeBoykinDance, Dormeshia Sumbry-Edwards, Derick K. Grant; Spoken Word Artists: Latasha Nevada Diggs, Shelell Freeman, David Jefferson, Jr., Jessica Care Moore

For High Res photos:

jalc.org/about/artist1009.asp?personID=848

Who/What:

Curated by Jazz at Lincoln Center Orchestra drummer **Ali Jackson**, “The Beats of NYC: A Jazz Journey Through Dance, Rhythm, and Rhyme” explores the musical culture of New York City with dancers, musicians, poets, and spoken word artists. Featuring both premiere works and reimagined interpretations of jazz classics, “The Beats of NYC” demonstrates the role of rhythm and beats in dance, voice, and contemporary music. Spearheaded by the percussive sounds of Jackson, the multi-genre program features many guest artists: modern dancer **Hope Boykin** of Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater and her dance company **HopeBoykinDance**, pianist **Marc Cary**, guitarist/vocalist **Lionel Loueke**, bassist **Ben Williams**, percussionists **Andrew Daniels** and **Adewole Love**, spoken word artists **Latasha Nevada Diggs**,

Shelell Freeman, David Jefferson, Jr., and Jessica Care Moore, and tap dancer extraordinaires Dormeshia Sumbry-Edwards and Derick K. Grant.

“The Beats of NYC” premieres new music, choreography, and poetry, inspired by artists such as Duke Ellington, Horace Silver, Mississippi John Hurt, John Lee Hooker, Wynton Marsalis, Walt Whitman, Paul Laurence Dunbar, Langston Hughes, Gil Scott-Heron, and Nas, among others. Highlights include a work for solo piano and tap dancer, and a special arrangement of Wynton Marsalis’ “Spaces” adding elements of dance, and poetry.

Quote:

“The melting pot of New York City helps artists to discover who they are, why they are and what they want to be. The discovery of oneself takes place in discovering a perspective of the world and New York City does this like no other place on the planet. Music, dance and, poetry thrive with so much variety in NYC,” said **Ali Jackson**, the Beats of NYC music director. “We will explore the ideas, concepts, and fundamental elements of these disciplines. My music reflects the world as New York City reflects the world. I’ve learned that the ‘beat’ of my chosen instrument, the drum, serves as the core of all forms of expression. Whether it’s the ‘beat’ of someone’s voice or the ‘beat’ of a classical orchestral work, the impact that percussion has had on art, and artists alike, is undeniable.”

When:

Friday, January 22 & Saturday, January 23, 2010, 7:30pm and 9:30pm

Where:

The Allen Room at Frederick P. Rose Hall, home of Jazz at Lincoln Center, Broadway at 60th Street, New York, NY

Tickets:

Tickets at \$55 and \$65 are available at the Jazz at Lincoln Center Box Office on Broadway at 60th St., by calling CenterCharge at 212-721-6500 or via jalc.org. Box Office hours: Mon.-Sat., 10am-6pm, Sun. 12pm-6pm.

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