

LET MY CHILDREN HEAR MUSIC THE CHARLES MINGUS INSTITUTE



Charles Mingus High School Competition & Festival - Feb 13-15

- **Finalists announced!**

- **Mingus Gospel Concert St. Bartholomew's Church, Park Ave - Sat Feb 13**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

January 4, 2010 - New York, NY

Let My Children Hear Music/The Charles Mingus Institute and Manhattan School of Music announces finalist (see below) and an exciting lineup for the Charles Mingus High School Competition and weekend festival. This year's nationwide Competition will include not only the events produced with Manhattan School of Music, but also an extraordinary public concert of Mingus gospel music at the landmark St. Bartholomew's (St. Bart's) Church on Park Avenue and 50th Street.

Saturday begins with a full day of clinics and workshops at the Manhattan School of Music, including master classes for instruments and sections, lectures and clinics that explore aspects of Mingus music such as "Thematic Development in Improvisation," "Deconstructing Melody," and "The Blues at the Heart of Mingus." A special Band Director's Workshop will be directed by Justin DiCioccio, followed by a student Mingus jam. Prominent educators and musicians will listen to tapes, adjudicate performances, and oversee these events including Gunther Schuller, Justin DiCioccio, Robin Eubanks, Conrad Herwig, James Newton, Christian McBride, Donny McCaslin, Andrew Homzy, Boris Kozlov and more.

The Saturday evening concert by the Mingus Orchestra at St. Bart's is a unique event that not only returns Mingus music to its blues & gospel roots, but features the sort of instrumentation—harp, bassoon, French horn, and bass clarinet—that illustrates Mingus's long-time mission to expand the instrumental possibilities in jazz. The concert will include such rousing numbers as "Better Get Hit In Your Soul," "Wednesday Night Prayer Meeting," "Ecclesiastics," "Consider Me, Oh Lord" (from a Langston Hughes collaboration), and a special trio performance of "Noddin Ya' Head Blues." The Mingus Orchestra features special guest, Edmar Castaneda on harp and Vincent Herring, Ku-umba Frank Lacy, Wayne Escoffery, Kenny Rampton, Boris Kozlov, Donald Edwards, Jack Wilkins, Michael Rabinowitz, Doug Yates, and John Clark.

On Sunday the daylong Mingus High School Competition will feature the top 12 big bands and combos from around the country followed by a concert by the MSM Mingus Combo and the Mingus Dynasty. Monday the Mingus Dynasty will also perform at Jazz Standard as part of its regular weekly residency.

All participants, whether finalists or not, are invited to attend all weekend events. The Competition provides an exceptional musical experience for its participants and is an important addition to the many cultural attractions in New York City.

Saturday, Feb 13: Full day of clinics, master classes, and jams at Manhattan School of Music 122nd Street & Broadway. Evening Mingus concert at St. Bartholomew's (St. Bart's) Church 109 East 50th St @ Park Ave bringing Mingus music back to its gospel & blues roots and featuring special instrumentation

Sunday, Feb 14: Mingus High School Competition at Manhattan School of Music. Concert by MSM Mingus Combo and Mingus Dynasty

Monday, Feb 15: Mingus Dynasty at Jazz Standard 116 E. 27th btw Park & Lex

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LET MY CHILDREN HEAR MUSIC (THE CHARLES MINGUS INSTITUTE), a 501c(3) Incorporated in New York November 26, 1986, is devoted to expanding and promoting the legacy of composer Charles Mingus through performance, education, publishing, and archival preservation.

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MINGUS HIGH SCHOOL COMPETITION FINALISTS ANNOUNCED

The finalists (in alphabetical order) are:

BIG BAND CATEGORY-Regular

Boston Latin Big Band, Boston Latin School, Boston, MA. Band Director: Paul J. Pitts
Kenmore East High School Jazz Band, Tonawanda, NY. Band Director: Phil Aguglia
Rivers Big Band, The Rivers School, Weston, MA. Band Director: Philippe Crettien

BIG BAND CATEGORY-Specialized

Academy Big Band, Greater Hartford Academy of the Arts, Hartford, CT.
Band Director: Douglas Maher
Eastman Youth Jazz Orchestra, Rochester, NY. Band Director: Howard Potter
Manhattan School of Music Precollege Big Band, New York, NY. Band Director: Jeremy Manasia

COMBO CATEGORY-Regular

Foxborough High School Jazz Quintet, Foxborough, MA. Director: Stephen C. Massey
Rio Americano Combo, Rio Americano High School, Sacramento, CA.
Band Director: Max Kiesner

Rivers Select I Combo, The Rivers School, Weston, MA. Band Director: Philippe Crettien

COMBO CATEGORY-Specialized

Eastman Youth Jazz Orchestra, Rochester, NY. Band Director: Howard Potter
Manasia Improv Ensemble, Manhattan School of Music, New York, NY.
Band Director: Jeremy Manasia
York College Blue Notes, New York, NY. Band Director: Tom Zlabinger

Please call 212-736-4749 for more information.

Clinics and Competition produced with Justin
DiCioccio and
THE MANHATTAN SCHOOL OF MUSIC
122nd Street & Broadway, NYC
<http://www.msmnyc.edu>

“You are guaranteed a great and profound experience when you perform music by this giant of jazz composition.”

—Gunther Schuller, conductor/ Pulitzer Prize-winning composer/educator

“The process of learning Charles Mingus music builds not only musical skills, but life skills. And seeing how other people treat it, the freedom that’s involved, it’s all pretty amazing stuff. It’s been a blast.”

—Howard Potter, Eastman Youth Orchestra band director

“The deep study of this music has affected our lives. It’s changed us as people and players.”

—Jeffery Leonard, Lexington High School band director