

CHARLES MINGUS One of the most important figures in twentieth century American music, Mingus was a virtuoso bass player, accomplished pianist, bandleader and composer. He recorded over a hundred albums and wrote over three hundred compositions. His legacy is the second-largest in American music after Ellington. Mingus received grants from the National Endowment for the Arts, The Smithsonian Institute, and the Guggenheim Foundation. Following his death in 1979 from ALS (Lou Gehrig's disease), the Library of Congress acquired his entire catalog of work including original scores, recording tapes, and personal effects. An NEH grant enabled the cataloging of all his compositions. Microfilm copies were donated to the New York Public Library. He has been honored with a US Postage stamp. The critical and popular success of the Mingus repertory bands testify to the power of Mingus composition. The availability of his music through published arrangements, educational books, school courses, and workshops, coupled with the Charles Mingus High School Competition, have extended the reach of his legacy.

GUNTHER SCHULLER His musical career ranges from composing and conducting to his extensive work as an educator, administrator, music publisher, record producer, and author. He is the recipient of Guggenheim fellowships, the Darius Milhaud Award, William Schuman Award, the Rodgers and Hammerstein Award, MacArthur Fellow in 1991 and 1994 Pulitzer Prize in Music. He has taught at Manhattan School of Music and Yale University; has served as Artistic Director of the Berkshire Music Center at Tanglewood, and was President of the New England Conservatory of Music for a decade. He was a personal friend of Charles Mingus, conducted Mingus' masterwork *Epitaph* in its 1989 premier and subsequent revivals and has made many arrangements for Mingus repertory bands.

SUE MINGUS Since Charles Mingus' death in 1979, Sue Mingus has created and continues to direct repertory ensembles that carry on the music of her late husband through tours, recordings, educational book publishing, and two decades of weekly residencies in New York, now Mingus Monday at Jazz Standard. In 1989, she produced Mingus' monumental 31-musician *Epitaph* in its premiere at Lincoln Center's Alice Tully Hall and many subsequent performances. In 2002, Pantheon (Random House) released Sue's memoir of her life with Mingus entitled *Tonight At Noon*, which was a *New York Times* Notable Book and a *Los Angeles Times* Best Book of the Year.

BETTER GET HIT IN YOUR SOUL

Music of Charles Mingus



LET MY CHILDREN HEAR MUSIC (THE CHARLES MINGUS INSTITUTE) is a 501c(3) incorporated in New York November 26, 1986, to expand and promote the legacy of Charles Mingus through performance, education, publishing, and archival preservation. mingusmingus.com

St. Bartholomew's Church
325 Park Avenue (at 50th Street)
Saturday, February 13, 2010 - 7pm

MINGUS ORCHESTRA

"The Orchestra upholds the boisterous Mingus legacy while delving even deeper into his repertory."

– **The New York Times**

"The lean, sharp ten-piece band features such uncommon instrumentation as a bassoon and a French horn, but this isn't staid chamber jazz. When the spirit of the late, great one hits them, they steam."

– **The New Yorker**

"Had American symphony orchestras not discriminated against African-American musicians throughout much of the 20th century, Charles Mingus might have led an entirely different career. Mingus was as much a student of Beethoven and Debussy as of Fats Waller and Duke Ellington, and his classical aspirations found their outlet in dozens of compositions written for a sort of jazz-band-plus that included non-jazz instruments like bassoon, oboe, and French horn. It is to this often-overlooked portion of Charles' legacy that the Mingus Orchestra is devoted."

– **Andy Schwartz**

"If you like Beethoven, Bach or Brahms, that's okay. They were all pencil composers. I always wanted to be a spontaneous composer. I think it is time our children were raised to think they can play bassoon, oboe, French horn, English horn, full percussion, violin, cello. If we so-called jazz musicians who are composers, the spontaneous composers, started including these instruments in our music, it would open everything up."

– **Charles Mingus**, *Let My Children Hear Music* liner notes

Mingus Orchestra performs Mondays at the Jazz Standard (116 E 27 St. 212-576-2232) alternating with Mingus Big Band and Mingus Dynasty.

Please visit mingusmingusmingus.com for more information.

PROGRAM

Ecclusiastics

Opening narration from Ecclesiastes by Ku-umba Frank Lacy (Sy Johnson arr.)

Noon Night

Arranged and conducted by Gunther Schuller from Epitaph

Noddin' Ya Head Blues

Premier (arr. by Michael Rabinowitz for bassoon, clarinet & flute)

Haitian Fight Song

Featuring harp & bassoon (Sy Johnson arr.)

Consider Me Oh Lord

Poem by Langston Hughes, narrated by Ku-umba Frank Lacy (Jimmy Knepper arr.)

Slop

(Jimmy Knepper arr.)

Taurus in the Arena of Life

Arranged and conducted by Gunther Schuller

Goodbye Pork Pie Hat

Lyrics by Joni Mitchell, sung by Ku-umba Frank Lacy (Seamus Blake arr.)

Better Get Hit in Your Soul/ Wednesday Night Prayer Meeting

All compositions by Charles Mingus

In connection with the national Charles Mingus High School Competition hosted at the Manhattan School of Music Feb. 13-14, the concert at St. Bartholomew's Church was conceived as an introduction for visiting students to the cultural and spiritual treasures of New York City and as an opportunity to hear Mingus music where it all began-in church where he first heard the sounds that would shape his musical life. This concert comes in the middle of a weekend of Mingus clinics and workshops at the MSM culminating in a Competition for big bands and combos on Sunday. The Competition is co-produced by Sue Mingus of Let my Children Hear Music (mingusmingusmingus.com) and Justin DiCioccio of the Manhattan School of Music (122nd & Broadway msmnyc.edu).

MUSICIANS

Scott Robinson

Alto saxophone & flute

Wayne Escoffery

Tenor & soprano saxophone

Ku-umba Frank Lacy

Trombone/vocalist

Kenny Rampton

Trumpet

Michael Rabinowitz

Bassoon

John Clark

French horn

Douglas Yates

Bass clarinet & clarinet

Jack Wilkins

Guitar

Boris Kozlov

Bass violin

Donald Edwards

Drums

Edmar Castaneda

Harp

Gunther Schuller

Conductor