



PROGRAM

Washington Musica Viva

September 21, 7:30 pm
Embassy of the Czech Republic

WORLD PREMIERE

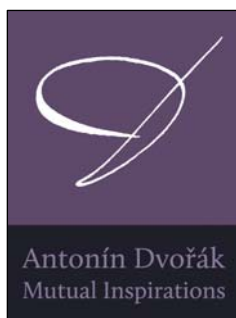
Charley Gerard *Dvořák Jazz Dances*, inspired by Czech composer Antonín Dvořák's two series of *Slavonic Dances*, Op. 46 and 72

Performed by Carl Banner (piano), James King (bass), Charley Gerard (alto saxophone), Syberen van Munster (guitar) and Lenny Robinson (drums)

QUOTE:

"Just as Dvorak was inspired by the American landscape to compose some of his finest works, I have written *Dvořák Jazz Dances*, inspired by the Czech composer's two series of *Slavonic Dances*, Op. 46 and 72. Jazz was a musical genre that itself was inspired by Dvořák's American legacy. Duke Ellington and George Gershwin both received musical direction from musicians who studied under Dvořák when the composer was musical director at Jeannette Thurber's short-lived National Conservatory. Each of my *Dvořák Jazz Dances* begins with a short excerpt of a *Slavonic Dance* and is followed by an original theme in which a kernel of the Dvořák theme is reinterpreted. Jazz improvisation is an important element of *Dvořák Jazz Dances* and I'm glad that I'll have some excellent jazz musicians performing the work. Rhythmic invention and humor are key elements of my music, and I hope that these Dances are rhythmically compelling and sometimes funny." ~ Composer Charley Gerard

ABOUT THE FESTIVAL



The *Mutual Inspirations Festival 2011 - Antonín Dvořák* runs from September 8, 2011, commemorating the 170th anniversary of the birth of the composer, and ends on October 28, 2011, Czech National Day. The festival features more than 500 local and international artists, 30 concerts and events, and a dozen prestigious venues in the Washington, DC, community. The festival is spearheaded by the Embassy of the Czech Republic, under the patronage of Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs Karel Schwarzenberg, focusing on the mutual inspirations between Czech and American cultures. For more information about the festival, please visit www.mutualinspirations.org.

BIOGRAPHIES

Composer / Performer



Charley Gerard is a composer, saxophonist, author and editor. Gerard's music is published by Really Good Music, Hartelu, and Dorn Publishing companies. Awards include Outstanding Academic Title from *Choice Magazine*, finalist for the Association for Recorded Sound Collections (ARSC) in the category "Best Research in Recorded Folk and Ethnic Music," and several ASCAP Standards awards. He is the author of *Salsa: The Rhythm of Latin Music* (White Cliffs Media), *Jazz in Black and White: Race, Culture and Identity in the Jazz Community* (Praeger), and several other books on jazz and Latin music. Gerard studied

composition and saxophone with Jimmy Giuffre and holds a degree in ethnomusicology from Columbia University.

Additional Quintet Members



Carl Banner (piano) is founder and executive director of Washington Musica Viva, and has produced and performed more than 170 chamber music concerts in the Washington area since 1998. He is a winner of several music competitions, including the Washington, DC, National Society of Arts and Letters Competition. Banner has performed as soloist with the St. Louis Symphony, and at Carnegie Hall with the Creative Associates, a new music ensemble. His teachers included Thelma Stein, Harold Zabrack, Leon Fleisher, Edith Schiller, Leonard Shure, and Leo Smit. He has recorded for AmCam, WMV, Mapleshade, and BRSQ records. He holds a Ph.D. in Molecular, Cellular, and Developmental Biology from Harvard University, and was active in

biomedical research and administration until his retirement in 2005.

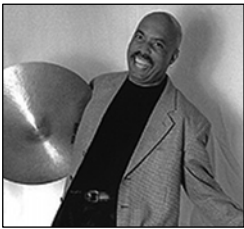


James King (bass), born in Houston, Texas, has made the Washington, DC, area his musical home for the last 30 years. He has working with both local and national acts such as Stanley Turrentine, Gary Bartz, Buck Hill, Shirley Horn, John Malachi, Sharon Clark, to name a few. In addition to being one of the most sought after bassists in the metropolitan area, King is also a gifted composer with a lyrical bass style. He can be found at one of the many national and international jazz festivals at the forefront of the jazz scene. King currently performs and tours with the Smithsonian Jazz Masterworks Orchestra.

BIOGRAPHIES (Continued...)



Syberen van Munster (guitar) received the following praise from the jury of the Conservatory of Amsterdam where he graduated cum-laude in 2009, “a highly melodic, authentic improviser.” Soon after that, he moved to New York City, where he became known as a young and upcoming guitar player and continued his education in music. After receiving a guitar for his 15th birthday, there was no turning back for the Amsterdam born musician. At the age of 17, he was already playing in the North Sea Jazz Festival as well as many other venues around the country. His musicianship has continued to grow rapidly since. He has had the chance to work with jazz greats such as Brian Lynch, Martijn van Iterson, Jasper Blom, Francien van Tuinen, Eric Vloeimans, Benjamin Herman and the Nederlands Blazers Ensemble. In 2009, he received the prestigious “Huygens” scholarship, which enabled him to study at the Aaron Copland School of Music in New York, where he is currently pursuing his Master’s Degree. Next to performing, Syberen also writes a monthly column in the Dutch guitar magazine “Gitarist” about his experiences in New York City.



Lenny Robinson (drums) is one of the most in demand jazz drummers in Washington, performing with such artists as Clifford Jordan, George Coleman, Archie Shepp, Larry Willis, Dewey Redman, Ronnie Mathews, John Hicks, Buster Williams, and Roy Hargrove. He has toured with Ahmad Jamal, Lou Donaldson, Vanessa Rubin, and Don Braden, and was a member of the late Stanley Turrentine's working band. Robinson is currently on the faculty of the Landon School in Bethesda.