

Eddie Murphy to be next Oscar host



FLORENCE ANTHONY

GO WITH THE FLO

It's official: Eddie Murphy will host the 84th Academy Awards, which ABC will broadcast live from the Kodak Theatre in Hollywood on Feb. 26. Brett Ratner and Don Mischer, who are producing the annual awards show, presented their choice on Tuesday to officials at the Academy of Motion Picture Arts & Sciences, who then signed off on Murphy hosting. Ratner recently directed Murphy in Universal's upcoming "Tower Heist," in which Murphy co-stars with Ben Stiller, in theaters Nov. 4.

In a statement, Murphy said: "I am enormously honored to join the great list of

past Academy Awards hosts, from Hope and Carson to Crystal, Martin and Goldberg, among others. I'm looking forward to working with Brett and Don on creating a show that is enjoyable for both the fans at home and for the audience at the Kodak Theatre as we all come together to celebrate and recognize the great film contributions and collaborations from the past year."

The glitterati who attended Dr. and Mrs. Jessie R. Goodale III's recent fundraiser, "An Affair to Remember," at their Hamptons estate, can't stop talking about the evening's selected beverage, Adult Chocolate Milk. Even with three cases, the liqueur, which is smooth and delectable, was so popular that the bars ran out before the night's

end. Stay tuned for the Goodales' annual Movers & Shakers holiday party on Saturday, Jan. 21. Let's hope they stock up on Adult Chocolate Milk.

Boasting one of today's most powerful and melodic voices, Natasha C. Coward's singing sends chills up her fans' spines. Promoting her latest album, "No Warning Signs," the sexy, sultry songstress is getting ready for her Sept. 17 performance in one of music entrepreneur Shelley Brooks' legendary showcases at Iguana in Midtown Manhattan. Meanwhile, Coward, who has been the opening act for singing greats like Nancy Wilson, Jon Lucien, Freddie Jackson and Shirley Caesar, says she "wants to continue to bless folks with real music and bring back real R&B."

Harlem Chamber Players: 'Music at St. Mary's'



ALICIA HALL MORAN

SUITE SOUNDS

The Harlem Chamber Players are first when it comes to bringing high-caliber, affordable and accessible live chamber music directly to the people of Harlem.

Their acclaimed chamber music series, Music at St. Mary's, sustains and maintains an audience for classical music "inside the greater cultural landscape of Harlem, which includes jazz, dance, theater, literature, the visual arts and contemporary pop culture," says clarinetist Liz Player, founder and artistic director of the Harlem Chamber Players.

The first must-see concert, hosted by historian Eric K. Washington, is Sunday, Sept. 18 at St. Mary's Episcopal Church (located at 126th Street, between Broadway and Amsterdam Avenue).

"St. Mary's is an incredibly intimate and comfortable space, and the acoustics are really good," says Player.

The concert features Brahms' "Clarinet Quintet." "We love our fantastic violist Richard Brice," she says. "We always try to find beautiful music to show off his playing."

Guest vocalist mezzo-soprano Carolyn Sebron will sing Brahms' "Two Songs, Op. 91," with Evelyn Golz on piano and Richard Brice joining for the obbligato viola part. "Amadi Azikiwe, a violist and violinist, will play the early Mozart "B-flat Quintet," which I think makes a nice contrast to the somber music of Brahms," says Player.

Additionally, you can speak with these artists at the "Meet the Artists" reception held after every concert.

Music at St. Mary's began in 2008 as a partnership between Player and violist Charles Dalton, who met while performing in the New York City Housing Authority (NYCHA) Symphony's annual Black History Month gala concert at Carnegie Hall.

Inspired by the founder of the NYCHA Symphony Orchestra, Janet Wolfe, Player and Dalton created a summer music festival in the neighborhood of Manhattanville/West Harlem. The Rev. Dr. Earl Kooperkamp of St. Mary's, wishing to cultivate the enthusiasm generated by those multi-ethnic, multi-

cultural chamber music events, sponsored the creation of a permanent series. Wolfe signed on as a founding board member, and at 97 years old, she's still one of Harlem Chamber Players' biggest donors. "I hope to continue in her vein, creating opportunities for classically trained minority musicians," says Player.

The second concert in the series, Nov. 13's "An Afternoon of Bach," features "Brandenburg Concerto No. 6," with Richard Brice and Amadi Azikiwe from the Ritz Chamber Players (based in Jacksonville, Fla.), and "Brandenburg Concerto No. 5," with pianist Evelyn Golz, an original member of the Harlem Chamber Players.

"My good friend Lisa Arkis is playing flute, and Suzanne Ornstein will be joining us for the first time as solo violinist. Violinist Ashley Horne opens the concert with the 'Violin Concerto in A-minor,'" says Player.

Feb. 26 is the Harlem Chamber Players' fourth annual Black History Month celebration, hosted by WQXR radio personality Terrance McKnight and a must-see lineup featuring conductor Tali Makell and soprano Andréa Bradford, who returns to sing spirituals with Wayne Sanders, the director of Opera Ebony, on piano.

Last season, Player received an email from Wilmer Wise saying, "If you ever need a trumpet player, call me."

"Wilmer is a real heavyweight," said Player, and she seized the opportunity to program him for the spring finale concert on April 29. Wise will perform in Saint-Saëns' Septet for trumpet, piano, string quartet and bass.

Initially, Player admits she had reservations about instituting a chamber music series, but she's encouraged by the growing community response.

"Our audience is growing," she says. "We program only the most beautiful chamber pieces that we think the audience will love and select the musicians who bring out the best in the music. We try to keep it real."

Tickets are just \$10 to \$15, but anyone unable to afford that price is welcome to come to the church to listen for free. Season subscriptions are also available for a limited time. Contact (212) 866-1492 or info@harlemchamberplayers.org.

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Hendricks and Heath open JALC season



RON SCOTT

JAZZ NOTES

As summer fades backstage, shadowed by its extended hot summer nights and free outdoor jazz concerts, fall will now take center stage, moving indoors from brisk, breezy nights to a hot new season of live music at Jazz at Lincoln Center.

Sept. 24, opening night at the Rose Theater at Frederick P. Rose Hall (60th Street at Broadway), is sure to be a barnburner with high intensity swinging power. Jon Hendricks, the master of vocalese, will be joined by marquee vocalists Bobby McFerrin, Dianne Reeves, Kevin Burke, Sachal Vasandani and Aria and Michelle Hendricks (the latter two are Jon's daughters) to perform a classic Lambert, Hendricks and Ross repertoire.

Jimmy Heath, who played a significant role in building and cultivating the landscape of jazz as an arranger, composer, saxophonist and educator, will also grace the stage in a rare performance with his big band. As a Libra, he will also be celebrating his 85th birthday.

Heath has performed on more than 100 albums, including seven with the Heath Brothers and 12 as a leader. He has written more than 125 compositions, many of which have become jazz standards recorded by other artists, including Art Farmer, "Cannonball" Adderley, Clark Terry, Chet Baker, Miles Davis, James Moody, Milt Jackson, Ahmad Jamal and Ray Charles.

In 1957, Hendricks teamed up with Dave Lambert and Annie Ross to form the legendary vocal trio Lambert, Hendricks and Ross. With Hendricks as lyricist, the trio perfected the art of vocalese, a rhythmic flow with swinging syncopated harmonies on vocal instruments. This unique style earned them the designation "Number One Vocal Group in the World" for five consecutive years from Melody Maker magazine.

Back in the day, carrying a Miles Davis, Lambert, Hendricks and Ross album was a badge of hipness. The first time I heard "Cloudburst," I was blown away. In order to hang out with the cool jazz crew, you had to know the lyrics to "Gimme that Wine," "Twisted" or "Little Niles" straight through and no stuttering accepted, dig?

Hendricks served on the Kennedy Center Honors committee under Presidents

Jimmy Carter, Ronald Reagan, and Bill Clinton.

In 2000, Hendricks returned to his hometown to teach at the University of Toledo, where he was appointed distinguished professor of jazz studies and received an honorary doctorate of the performing arts. He was recently selected to be the first American jazz artist to lecture at the Sorbonne in Paris.

Today, no group can touch their vocalese perfection. Jay-Z, Snoop and Kanye need to recognize where the real flow originated, until then, they are just frontin'.

At 90 years old, Hendricks has the goods, no frontin', just plain old originality. He is imitated but never duplicated. He will be leading his own band for this performance. This is going to be a special moment in jazz that only happens once. The show begins at 8 p.m.

Hot Seats, \$10 orchestra seats for each Rose Theater performance (excluding Jazz for Young People concerts), are available for purchase to the general public on the Wednesday of each performance week. Hot Seats are available only by walk up at the box office, with a maximum of four tickets per person, and are subject to availability.

For more information, visit jalc.org.