

Biographical Description for The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History with Terence Blanchard

PERSON

Blanchard, Terence

Alternative Names: Terence Blanchard;

Life Dates: March 13, 1962-

Place of Birth: New Orleans, Louisiana, USA

Residence: New Orleans, LA

Occupations: Trumpet Player; Music Composer

Biographical Note

Jazz trumpeter and composer Terence Oliver Blanchard was born on March 13, 1962 in New Orleans, Louisiana to Wilhelmina and Joseph Oliver Blanchard. Blanchard began playing piano at the age of five, but switched to trumpet three years later. While in high school, he took extracurricular classes at the New Orleans Center for Creative Arts. From 1980 to 1982, Blanchard studied at Rutgers University in New Jersey and toured with the Lionel Hampton Orchestra.

In 1982, Blanchard replaced trumpeter Wynton Marsalis in Art Blakey and the Jazz Messengers, where he served as musical director until 1986. He also co-led a quintet with saxophonist Donald Harrison in the 1980s, recording five albums between 1984 and 1988. In 1991, Blanchard recorded and released his self-titled debut album for Columbia Records, which reached third on the Billboard Jazz Charts. He also composed musical scores for Spike Lee's films, beginning with 1991's *Jungle Fever*, and has written the score for every Spike Lee film since including *Malcolm X*, *Clockers*, *Summer of Sam*, *25th Hour*, *Inside Man*, and *Miracle At St. Anna*'s. In 2006, he composed the score for Lee's four-hour Hurricane Katrina documentary for HBO entitled *When the Levees Broke: A Requiem in Four Acts*. Blanchard also composed for other directors, including Leon Ichaso, Ron Shelton, Kasi Lemmons and George Lucas. In all, he has written over fifty film scores.

Blanchard has also recorded several award-winning albums for Columbia, Concord, Sony Classical and Blue Note Records, including *Simply Stated* (1992), *The Malcolm X Jazz Suite* (1993), *In My Solitude: The Billie Holiday Songbook* (1994), *Romantic Defiance* (1995), *The Heart Speaks* (1996), *Wandering Moon* (2000), *Let's Get Lost* (2001), *Bounce* (2003), *Flow* (2005), *A Tale of God's Will (A Requiem for Katrina)* (2007), *Choices* (2009), and *Magnetic* (2013).

In the fall of 2000, Blanchard was named artistic director of the Thelonious Monk Institute of Jazz at the University of Southern California. In 2011, he was appointed artistic director of the Henry Mancini Institute at the University of Miami. Blanchard also composed music for a number of Broadway plays, and, on June 15, 2013, he premiered his first opera, *Champion*, with the Opera Theatre of Saint Louis.

Throughout his career, Blanchard received thirteen Grammy Award nominations and won five. His other honors include an Emmy nomination, a Golden Globe nomination, a Soul Train Music nomination, two Black Reel nominations, and the Miles Davis Award from the Montreal International Jazz Festival. He received honorary degrees from Xavier University and Skidmore College in 2012.

Terence Blanchard was interviewed by The HistoryMakers on October 8, 2014.

Related Entries

Mary D. Coghill Elementary School [STUDENTOF]
[from ? to ?]

P. A. Capdau School [STUDENTOF]
[from ? to ?]

St. Augustine High School [STUDENTOF]
[from ? to ?]

John F. Kennedy High School [STUDENTOF]
[from ? to ?]

New Orleans Center for Creative Arts [STUDENTOF]
[from ? to ?]

Certificate Program in Music

Rutgers University [STUDENTOF]
[from ? to ?]

Lionel Hampton [EMPLOYEEOF]
[from 1980 to 1982]

Trumpeter

Art Blakey & the Jazz Messengers [EMPLOYEEOF]
[from 1982 to 1986]

Trumpeter

Donald Harrison & Terence Blanchard [EMPLOYEEOF]
[from 1984 to 1988]

Trumpeter

Terence Blanchard [EMPLOYEEOF]
[from 1988 to ?]

Trumpeter/Band Leader/Composer

Thelonious Monk Institute [EMPLOYEEOf]
[from 2000 to 2010]

Artistic Director

Herbie Hancock [EMPLOYEEOf]
[from 2008 to ?]

Trumpeter

Henry Mancini Institute [EMPLOYEEOf]
[from 2011 to ?]

Artistic Director

Thelonious Monk Institute of Jazz [MEMBEROf]
[from 2000 to 2010]

Artistic Director

Henry Mancini Institute at University of Miami Frost School of Music [MEMBEROf]
[from 2011 to ?]

Artistic Director

Detroit Symphony Orchestra [MEMBEROf]
[from 2012 to ?]

Fred A. & Barbara M. Erb Jazz Creative Director Chair

Grammy U [MEMBEROf]
[from 2013 to ?]

Advisory Council Member

SF Jazz Center [MEMBEROf]
[from 2014 to 2016]

Resident Artistic Director