



Contact: Sue Mingus  
Let My Children Hear Music  
484 West 43rd Street, 43-S, New York, NY 10036  
(212) 736-4749 Fax (212) 736-6149  
<http://www.mingusmingusmingus.com/JazzEducation>

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### **Finalists announced for the First Annual Charles Mingus High School Competition**

New York, NY – January 15, 2009 – Sue Mingus of Let My Children Hear Music and Justin DiCioccio of The Manhattan School of Music are pleased to announce the finalists in the First Annual Charles Mingus High School Competition.

The finalists (in alphabetical order) are:

#### **BIG BAND CATEGORY**

Eastman Youth Jazz Orchestra, Rochester, NY. Band Director: Howard Potter

Gates Chili High School Jazz Ensemble, Rochester, NY. Band Director: Christopher Oldfield

LaGuardia High School of Music and Art, Senior Jazz Band, New York, NY. Band Director: Kevin Blancq

Lexington High School Jazz Ensemble, Lexington, MA. Band Director, Jeffrey Leonard

Rivers Big Band, The Rivers School, Weston, MA. Band Director: Philippe Crettien

#### **COMBO CATEGORY**

Greater Hartford Academy of the Arts, Jazz Ensemble 3, Hartford, CT. Band Directors: Kris Allen and Jimmy Greene

King Phillip Regional High School Jazz Combo 1, Wrentham, MA. Band Directors: Peter Levesque and Peter Tileson

LaGuardia High School Jazz Quintet, New York, NY. Band Director: Kevin Blancq

Manhattan School of Music Precollege Combo, New York, NY. Band Director: Jeremy Manasia

The Rivers School, Rivers Select 1 Combo, Weston, MA. Band Director: Philippe Crettien

The Mingus High School Competition will take place on February 22, 2009, as the final event of the three-day Mingus Summit at Manhattan School of Music in New York City. All events are free and open to the public. Prizes will be awarded in the following categories: Best Big Band, Best Combo, Outstanding Soloists, Outstanding Big Band Section, and Outstanding Combo Arrangement. We are also pleased to announce the surprise news that two scholarships to Manhattan School of Music will be awarded at the Competition.

Next year's Competition will be open to high schools nationwide. Details will be announced soon in order to allow plenty of time in the spring and summer for preparation.

Our adjudicators were impressed by the high quality of the submissions and thrilled to hear Mingus music played with such heart and commitment. We are all very excited to see Mingus energy thriving and inspiring these young musicians.

Sue Mingus  
Justin DiCioccio

## MINGUS SUMMIT AND HIGH SCHOOL COMPETITION SCHEDULE

**FRIDAY, Feb 20, 2009**                      **7:30pm-9pm**                      **MINGUS SUMMIT**

Manhattan School of Music  
122nd Street & Broadway, NYC  
Greenfield Hall

Keynote Address by Gunther Schuller (Pulitzer Prize-winning Composer/Conductor).  
Panel Discussion moderated by Justin DiCioccio (Manhattan School of Music Jazz Director), with Schuller, Vincent Herring (saxophonist/educator), Conrad Herwig (trombonist/Professor Jazz Studies, Rutgers), Andy McKee (bassist/ Director Mingus Ensemble, New School University), and Sue Mingus (President of Let My Children Hear Music/The Charles Mingus Institute, and creator of the Mingus repertory bands). Free and open to the public.

**SATURDAY, Feb 21, 2009**                      **7:30pm-9:30pm**                      **MINGUS SUMMIT**

Manhattan School of Music  
122nd Street & Broadway, NYC  
John C Borden Auditorium

Performance by Manhattan School of Music Combo, featuring guest soloist and director Steve Slagle from the Mingus Big Band. Free and open to the public.

**SUNDAY, Feb 22, 2009**    **10am-7pm**                      **MINGUS HIGH SCHOOL COMPETITION**

Manhattan School of Music  
122nd Street & Broadway, NYC  
John C Borden Auditorium  
Free and open to the public.

Adjudicators for the Competition: Conrad Herwig, Gunther Schuller, Boris Kozlov, Vincent Herring, Justin DiCioccio, and Donny McCaslin.

### **10am-11:30am COMBO COMPETITION –**

- LaGuardia High School Jazz Quintet, New York, NY. Band Director: Kevin Blancq
- King Phillip Regional High School Jazz Combo 1, Wrentham, MA. Band Directors: Peter Levesque and Peter Tileson
- Manhattan School of Music Precollege Combo, New York, NY. Band Director: Jeremy Manasia

11:30am-11:45am SHORT BREAK

### **11:45am-12:45pm COMBO COMPETITION –**

- Greater Hartford Academy of the Arts, Jazz Ensemble 3, Hartford, CT. Band Directors: Kris Allen and Jimmy Greene
- The Rivers School, Rivers Select 1 Combo, Weston, MA. Band Director: Philippe Crettien

12:45pm-2pm LUNCH BREAK

### **2pm-3:30pm BIG BAND COMPETITION –**

- Gates Chili High School Jazz Ensemble, Rochester, NY. Band Director: Christopher Oldfield
- Rivers Big Band, The Rivers School, Weston, MA. Band Director: Philippe Crettien
- LaGuardia High School of Music and Art, Senior Jazz Band, New York, NY. Band Director: Kevin Blancq

3:30pm-3:45pm SHORT BREAK

### **3:45pm-5pm BIG BAND COMPETITION –**

- Eastman Youth Jazz Orchestra, Rochester, NY. Band Director: Howard Potter
- Lexington High School Jazz Ensemble, Lexington, MA. Band Director, Jeffrey Leonard

**5pm PERFORMANCE by the Manhattan School of Music Jazz Orchestra**, conducted by Justin DiCioccio, just back from conducting orchestra at the Grammy awards!

**5:30pm PERFORMANCE by Mingus Dynasty** featuring Boris Kozlov (playing Charles Mingus' lionhead bass), Vincent Herring, Conrad Herwig, Donny McCaslin, Justin Faulkner (high school drummer from Girard Academic Music Program in Philadelphia), Alex Sipiagin, and Helen Sung.

**6pm-7pm AWARDS** ceremony and goodbyes.

**MONDAY, February 23**                      **SETS AT 7:30 & 9:30**                      **MINGUS DYNASTY**

Jazz Standard  
116 East 27th btw Park & Lex  
New York, NY 212-576-2232

Alto/flute: Vincent Herring, Tenor Saxophone: Seamus Blake, Trumpet: Alex Sipiagin, Trombone: Ku-umba Frank Lacy, Bass: Boris Kozlov, Piano: David Kikoski, Drums: Jeff "Tain" Watts.

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