

# **Hopkins Center for the Arts**

at Dartmouth

presents

# **Terence Blanchard**

## ***ABSENCE***

### **featuring the E-Collective and Turtle Island Quartet**

**Terence Blanchard, trumpet**

**Charles Altura, guitar**

**Taylor Eigsti, piano**

**David Ginyard Jr., bass**

**Oscar Seaton, drums**

**David Balakrishnan, violin**

**Gabriel Terracciano, violin**

**Benjamin von Gutzeit, viola**

**Greg Byers, cello**

**Wednesday, October 20, 7:30 pm**

**2021 • Spaulding Auditorium • Dartmouth College**

---

*Generously supported by the Bob Gatzert 1951 Jazz Series Fund and the Lewis Pace Poag 1972 Fund*

*Spaulding Auditorium's Hamburg Steinway concert grand piano was purchased with generous gifts from Members of the Hopkins Center and Members of the Hood Museum of Art; the class of 1942, in memory of Allan Dingwall '42; and anonymous donors. Its New York Steinway concert grand piano was restored with a generous gift by Huntley Allison '42 P'74.*

# Program

Titles will be announced from the stage.

*Approximate duration: 1 hour, 30 minutes*

## About the Artists

Oscar nominee, six-time Grammy-winner and 2018 USA Fellow trumpeter/composer **Terence Blanchard** has been a consistent artistic force for making powerful musical statements concerning painful American tragedies—past and present.

From his expansive work composing the scores for Spike Lee films ranging from the documentary *When the Levees Broke*, about Blanchard's hometown of New Orleans during the devastation from Hurricane Katrina to the epic *Malcolm X*; and the latest Lee film, *Da 5 Bloods* which was released by Netflix on June 12, Blanchard has interwoven melodies that created strong backdrops to human stories.

Blanchard received an Oscar nomination for his original score for Spike Lee's *BlackKkKlansman*. He was also BAFTA nominated for his original music for the film. He won a Grammy for Best Instrumental Composition for writing "Blut Und Boden (Blood and Soil)" a track from *BlackKkKlansman*.

More recently, Blanchard has composed his second opera, *Fire Shut Up in My Bones*, based on the memoir of celebrated writer and *The New York Times* columnist Charles Blow. The libretto was written by Kasi Lemmons and commissioned by Opera Theatre of Saint Louis where it premiered in June 2019. *The New York Times* has called Blanchard's opera "inspiring," "subtly powerful" and "a bold affecting adaptation of Charles Blow's work." The Metropolitan Opera premiered *Fire Shut Up in My Bones* on September 27, 2021 to open their 2021-22 season in New York, making it the first opera composed by an African American composer to premiere at the Met. Blanchard's first opera, *Champion*, also premiered to critical acclaim in 2013

at OTSL and starred Denyce Graves with a libretto from Pulitzer Prize Winner, Michael Cristofer.

With his current quintet **The E-Collective**, featured on the score to *BlackKkKlansman* with a 96-piece orchestra, Blanchard delivered "a soaring, seething, luxuriant score," *The New York Times*. In *Vice Magazine*, Blanchard elaborates, "In *BlackKkKlansman* it all became real to me. You feel the level of intolerance that exists for people who ignore other people's pain. Musically, I can't ignore that. I can't add to that intolerance. Instead I have to help people heal from it."

Some of Blanchard's other film and television credits include Spike Lee's *Jungle Fever*, *Summer of Sam*, *25th Hour*, *Inside Man* and *Miracle at St. Anna*; Kasi Lemmons' films, *Eve's Bayou*, *Talk to Me* and *Harriet*; George Lucas' *Red Tails*; Tim Story's *Barbershop*; the powerful documentary *On the Record* which was directed and produced by Kirby Dick and Amy Ziering and premiered on HBO Max in May 2020; and the critically acclaimed drama series *Perry Mason* starring Matthew Rhys with episodes directed by Tim Van Patten which premiered on HBO in June 2020.

Blanchard scored *One Night in Miami* which marks Regina King's feature directorial debut and was acquired by Amazon Studios and premiered at the Venice International Film Festival in September. The film opened in select theaters on December 25, 2020 and launched on Prime Video on January 15, 2021. Blanchard also wrote the music for the upcoming feature film *Bruised* which is the directorial debut for Halle Berry and premiered at the Toronto International Film Festival.

Regarding his consistent attachment to artistic works of conscience, Blanchard confesses, “You get to a certain age when you ask, ‘Who’s going to stand up and speak out for us?’ Then you look around and realize that the James Baldwins, Muhammad Alis and Dr. Kings are no longer here...and begin to understand that it falls on you. I’m not trying to say I’m here to try to correct the whole thing, I’m just trying to speak the truth.” In that regard, he cites unimpeachable inspirations. “Max Roach with his ‘Freedom Now Suite,’ John Coltrane playing ‘Alabama,’ even Louis Armstrong talking about what was going on with his people any time he was interviewed. Herbie Hancock & Wayne Shorter who live by their Buddhist philosophy and try to expand the conscience of their communities. I’m standing on all of their shoulders. How dare I come through this life having had the blessing of meeting those men and not take away any of that? Like anybody

else, I’d like to play feel good party music but sometimes my music is about the reality of where we are.”

For his latest project, Blanchard has combined the iconic sound of his E-Collective with two-time GRAMMY®-winning Turtle Island Quartet. The focus of the project, which was recorded and released on Blue Note® in August 2021, is celebrating the legacy of jazz legend and composer Wayne Shorter. “I’m proud to have a chance to visit some of the music that has shaped my musical identity,” says Blanchard. “Pairing Wayne Shorter’s music with original works from The E-Collective along with the sonic colors of Turtle Island Quartet has been an amazing experience. Wayne has said before ‘Jazz means I Dare You,’ so why not dare to be creative and pay homage at the same time,” said Blanchard.

## Connecting Artists to the Community

During Terence Blanchard’s residency at the Hopkins Center, he and his band, the E-Collective, and the Turtle Island String Quartet met with various members of the Dartmouth community including the Hopkins Center, the Hood Museum of Art, the Black Caucus and Young Professionals at Dartmouth for an informal meet-and-greet on Tuesday, October 19 on the Hop Terrace. Mr. Blanchard was also interviewed by the Dartmouth Film Society’s radio show *Big Green Screen* on Dartmouth College Radio about his wide-ranging career. On October 20, Mr. Blanchard took part in a pre-show discussion at the Top of the Hop with Hop Director Mary Lou Aleskie and Dartmouth Professor Craig Sutton about what it’s like to be a Black artist in America today.

### Hopkins Center Board of Advisors

**Jim Bildner ’75**  
**Anne Fleischli Blackburn ’91 P’23**  
**Daniel Bryant ’91 P’23**  
**Kenneth L. Burns H’93**  
**Rebecca Byrne P’20 P’22**  
**Les Chao ’78 P’20**  
**Barbara J. Couch**  
**Kim Lessow Crockett ’92**  
**Rachel Dratch ’88**

**Claire Foerster P’18 P’21**  
**Lizanne Fontaine ’77 P’04 P’09**  
**Kelly Fowler Hunter ’83 Tu’88 P’13 P’15 P’19**  
**Nini Meyer P’22**  
**Hilary Spaulding Richards ’92**  
**Laurel J. Richie ’81, Chair of the Board**  
**Dan Rush ’92**  
**Peter S. Vosshall ’92**  
**Sharon Washington ’81**

### Hopkins Center Directorate

**Mary Lou Aleskie**, Howard L. Gilman ’44 Director  
**Michael Bodel**, Director of External Affairs  
**Joshua Price Kol ’93**, Managing Director/Executive Producer  
**Jan Sillery**, Director of Financial and Administrative Operations  
**Sydney Stowe**, Director of Hopkins Center Film