



The John Coltrane Memorial Concert
(est. 1977)
www.jcmc.neu.edu
Department of African American Studies
132 Nightingale Hall
Northeastern University/Boston, MA 02115
617-373-8700

For Immediate Release

Music (Jazz/World): campus activities, most open to the general public

August, 2010

Mary Curtin, JCMC media contact & production associate, 617-241-9664, 617-470-5867 (cell),
marycurtin@comcast.net;

Leonard Brown & Emmett Price, JCMC co-producers, 617-373-4128, 617-373-7700, jcmc@neu.edu;

Evan O'Toole, JCMC production associate, 617-373-8700, 862-268-2961 (cell), EW.OToole@neu.edu;

[high res digital images upon request; access to sound bytes available at www.jcmc.neu.edu,
www.myspace.com/johncoltranememorialconcert & www.facebook.com/pages/John-Coltrane-Memorial-Concert/116653054081?ref=ts]

THE 33RD ANNUAL JOHN COLTRANE MEMORIAL CONCERT

featuring
**ANTHONY BROWN'S
ASIAN AMERICAN ORCHESTRA**



[photo by Kathy Sloane]

along with other activities
held during the month of September 2010

all events held at Northeastern University
with most free and open to the public:

~Thursday, September 16, 6-8 pm~

**John Coltrane and Black America's Quest for Freedom:
Spirituality and the Music**

(published by Oxford University Press, 2010)
symposium & book signing celebration,
featuring editor/contributor Leonard Brown,
and contributors
Emmett Price III, Anthony Brown,
Tommy Lee Lott & Eric Jackson

~Friday, September 17, 6-8 pm~

**Reflections: a 25 Year Retrospective on the
John Coltrane Memorial Concert
at Northeastern University**

featuring vintage audio & video footage from past JCMC events
held at Northeastern, plus insight, reminiscences, and commentary
given by some of the Boston-based artists who have
performed at the JCMC throughout the years

~Saturday, September 18, 7:30 pm~

33rd John Coltrane Memorial Concert

celebrating

25 years at Northeastern University

featuring

"India & Africa: A Tribute to John Coltrane"

performed by

Anthony Brown's Asian American Orchestra Concert

Special Lifetime Musical Recognition Award to Syd Smart;
hosted by Eric Jackson of WGBH's "Eric in the Evening"

~during the entire month of September~

**John Coltrane Memorial Concert at Northeastern University:
a photographic reflection of 25 years**

(Boston, MA) **John Coltrane** inspired many, no matter the community or culture, to achieve musical, spiritual, and humanitarian heights never thought possible. The Boston based **John Coltrane Memorial Concert (JCMC)**, established in 1977, is an annual recognition of Coltrane's spiritual and musical legacy. The world's oldest annual performance tribute to Coltrane and now in its 33rd year of existence, this year's JCMC will span the month of September with events celebrating the silver anniversary (25 years) of JCMC being located at Northeastern University, where it is based in the Department of African American Studies.

The special guest for JCMC 2010 will be **Anthony Brown's Asian American Orchestra** from the San Francisco/Oakland Bay area. In 1998, Brown formed the Asian American Orchestra with other Bay Area Asian American activist musicians initially to record and perform the music documented on the album *Big Bands Behind Barbed Wire*, a national multi-media education project funded by a federal program using money set aside from reparations for Japanese-Americans interned during World War II.

Since then, Brown and his Orchestra have received international critical acclaim for blending Asian musical

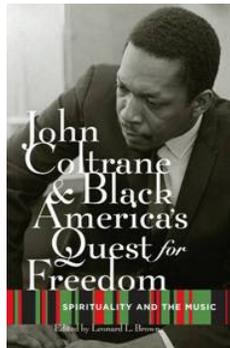
instruments and sensibilities with the sonorities of the jazz orchestra. In celebration of Duke Ellington's centennial in 1999, the Asian American Orchestra's recorded Duke Ellington-Billy Strayhorn's *Far East Suite*, which received a 2000 Grammy nomination for Best Large Jazz Ensemble Performance. In 2003, the late great jazz saxophonist and MacArthur Fellow Steve Lacy joined the Orchestra as guest artist for its recording *Monk's Moods*, which was rated as a "five-star masterpiece" and one of four "Best CDs of 2003" by *Downbeat* magazine. More recently, the Orchestra has been exploring Asian/African interpretations of several Coltrane compositions, including *India* and *Africa*, both of which will be performed in honor of JCMC's 25th Anniversary at Northeastern. [A link to PRI's story on the Orchestra's Coltrane project can be found at [http://www.theworld.org/2009/09/23/celebrating-coltranes-birthday/.](http://www.theworld.org/2009/09/23/celebrating-coltranes-birthday/)]

Since the early 80's, California-based percussionist, composer, educator and ethnomusicologist **Anthony Brown** has pioneered jazz explorations primarily within the Asian American community. His musical career dates back to the 1970's. A San Francisco native of Japanese and African/Native American descent who grew up around the world as an "Army brat," Brown has developed a unique compositional and performance voice reflective of his own intercultural heritage and experiences. His work in the early 1980's with the pioneering San Francisco-based jazz quartet, United Front, sparked an interest in blending non-Western compositional approaches and instruments with traditional jazz idioms and improvisation that he is still exploring today. Under the auspices of Fifth Stream Music (www.fifthstreammusic.org), Brown and his Orchestra continue to strive combining the instruments, conventions and sensibilities of jazz, classical, world and popular music to create a new musical language for the 21st century. More information specifically on Brown and his extensive background, including links to the Orchestra's recordings, can be found at www.anthonymbrown.org.

"If music is a language, then Berkeley percussionist and composer Anthony Brown is probably one of the most articulate men in jazz."
(The San Francisco Chronicle)

On Wednesday, September 15 (11:45 am-1:15 pm), there will be a private "**Meet the Composer**" gathering with maestro Anthony Brown, to be held at Northeastern's Asian-American Center, 109 Hemenway Street, Boston. This special event is for Northeastern University students and invited guests. All subsequent events pertaining to JCMC's 33rd anniversary will be open to the public.

[John Coltrane Memorial Concert listing details for events open to the public:](#)



Thursday, September 16, 6-8 pm

**John Coltrane and Black America's Quest for Freedom:
Spirituality and the Music**

(Published by Oxford University Press, 2010)

Symposium & book signing celebration; featuring editor/contributor Leonard Brown and contributors Emmett Price III, Anthony Brown, Tommy Lee Lott, & Eric Jackson; an interview with Leonard Brown reflecting on JCMC and his new book is available at www.massjazz.com/whatsnew/LeonardBrownPraises.php; detailed information on the book can be found at www.oup.com/us/catalog/general/subject/Music/PopularMusic/Jazz/?view=usa&ci=9780195328929.

Northeastern University, John D. O'Bryant African American Institute, Amilcar Cabral Center
40 Leon Street, Boston

[conveniently located near the Ruggles stop on the Orange Line or the Northeastern stop on the Green Line (E train)]

Free and open to all; books will be available for purchase at a discount price.

For information: 617-373-8700, EW.OToole@neu.edu

Friday, September 17, 6-8 pm

Reflections: a 25 Year Retrospective on the John Coltrane Memorial Concert at Northeastern University

Featuring vintage audio & video footage from past JCMC events held at Northeastern, plus insight, reminiscences, and commentary given by some of the Boston-based artists who have performed at the JCMC throughout the years.

Northeastern University, Egan Research Center, Raytheon Room

120 Forsyth St., Boston

[conveniently located near the Ruggles stop on the Orange Line or the Northeastern stop on the Green Line (E train)]

Free and open to all.

For information: 617-373-8700, EW.OTOole@neu.edu

Saturday, September 18, 7:30 pm

33rd John Coltrane Memorial Concert celebrating **25 years at Northeastern University** featuring:

“India & Africa: A Tribute to John Coltrane” performed by **Anthony Brown’s Asian American Orchestra Concert**

Special Lifetime Musical Recognition Award to Syd Smart; hosted by Eric Jackson of WGBH’s “Eric in the Evening.”

Northeastern University, Blackman Theatre, Ell Hall

360 Huntington Ave., Boston

[conveniently located near the Ruggles stop on the Orange Line or the Northeastern stop on the Green Line (E train)]

Ticket: \$20 general admission; \$17 NU faculty & staff, WGBH Members, non-NU students, seniors; \$15 NU students.

For tickets and information: 617-373-4700 (TTY 617-373-2184), www.gonu.com/tickets

During the entire month of September [check www.jcmc.neu.edu for complete information]:

John Coltrane Memorial Concert at Northeastern University: a photographic reflection of 25 years

Northeastern University

[exhibit at various locations on campus: Gallery 360 (Curry Student Center), Atrium (Ryder Hall, 1st floor) and Snell Library (entrance foyer)]

360 Huntington Ave., Boston

[conveniently located near the Ruggles stop on the Orange Line or the Northeastern stop on the Green Line (E train)]

Free and open to all.

For information: 617-373-8700, EW.OTOole@neu.edu

Background information on the annual John Coltrane Memorial Concert (JCMC):

The first **John Coltrane Memorial Concert** (JCMC) was performed in Boston on July 17, 1977, in the Friends of Great Black Music Loft, a performance space for creative arts established by master percussionist **Syd Smart**. The annual concert then developed through the collective efforts of Smart, bassist **Hayes Burnet**, and saxophonist **Leonard Brown**. In 1986, the JCMC moved to Northeastern University, which has served as its home for a quarter of a century, providing a stability that has been essential to the continuation and growth of this unique and important cultural event. Currently, JCMC is led by the team of Dr. Brown (Associate Professor, College of Arts, Media and Design / Music) and Dr. **Emmett G. Price III** (Chair, African-American Studies and Associate Professor, Music Department).

From the beginning and now into its 33rd year of producing concerts, the JCMC’s purpose has been to reflect on the rich musical and spiritual legacy of ‘Trane through contemporary interpretations of his works, to inspire us all to work toward developing our full capacities as human beings, and to work for world peace. The long list of invited guest artists who have performed with JCMC include McCoy Tyner, Frank Foster, Shirley Scott, George Coleman, Mulgrew Miller, Alvin Batiste, Yusef Lateef, Brother Blue, Danilo Perez, Michael Harper, Pharoah Sanders, Alan Dawson, Terri Lyn Carrington, Ravi Coltrane, Guru’s Jazzmatazz, and this year Anthony Brown’s Asian American Orchestra. The JCMC is the world’s oldest annual performance tribute to the musical and spiritual legacy of John Coltrane and draws a very diverse audience from throughout New England. Since its inception, over 25,000 people have attended the JCMC.

The John Coltrane Memorial Concert is proud to acknowledge this year’s sponsors which at press time are Northeastern University (www.northeastern.edu), WGBH (www.wgbh.org), Boston Herald (www.bostonherald.com), causemedia, inc. (www.causemedia.com), MassJazz (www.massjazz.com), and JazzBoston (www.jazzboston.org). For updates on sponsors and other pertinent information, log onto www.jcmc.neu.edu or call 617-373-8700.

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JCMC 2010

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