



The **TERENCE BLANCHARD** Group

Choices

Released on Concord Jazz
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“We make choices every day, none of which are right or wrong” says trumpeter, arranger, and composer, **Terence Blanchard**. “They are simply choices that allow us to explore the variety of what’s before us. Life is all about expansion and evolution”

Choices is the new recording from Blanchard, and addresses the choices we all make in life – both as a society and on a personal level.

Choices was recorded in Blanchard’s hometown of New Orleans in the Patrick F. Taylor Library at the Ogden Museum of Southern Art. Chosen both for its outstanding acoustics as well as its historical importance to the city; the library is a survivor of both hurricanes and decades of neglect. “There couldn’t have been a more perfect place to record this project,” says Blanchard, “The Library itself is a survivor as is this city. While my last album (*A Tale of God’s Will (a Requiem For Katrina)*) stemmed from Katrina’s pain and destruction, **Choices** will be a celebration of all that has survived and more.”

Accompanying Blanchard on the album are longstanding band members **Fabian Almazan** on piano, **Derrick Hodge** on bass and **Kendrick Scott** on drums, along with newcomer **Walter Smith III** on saxophone, all of whom made significant contributions to the compositions on the recording. Guest artists include critically-acclaimed guitarist and Blanchard protégé **Lionel Louke**, writer, speaker, educator and activist **Dr. Cornel West**, and singer, musician and composer **Bilal**.

“When the spoken word idea came to mind” said Blanchard, “Dr. Cornel West was the first person I thought of. I’ve always been a fan of his philosophy, the stances he’s taken and the causes that he has championed throughout his career - what better person could I find to put a lot of these ideas into words that can work in this particular musical situation”. Of Bilal, he says “he is a great vocalist and while recognized more as an R&B soul singer, he is a huge fan of jazz and is very knowledgeable when it comes to the history of music. Bilal is an extremely accomplished, creative and talented musician and it just seemed natural that he should be involved with the *Choices* project.”

Added Dr. West, “Choices...what kind of human being you’re going to be. How are you going to opt for a life of decency and compassion and service and love. What goes into that kind of choice. That’s the human challenge. To be part of this album is an unadulterated joy because no doubt about it, music for me is continuous of life -- to be able to live the kind of life that I live on the certain kind of Socratic calling of raising unsettling questions. To be able to be in conversation and on an album with Terence Blanchard, that’s serious business...I mean, ...that’s a beautiful thing.”



Blanchard has established himself as one of the most influential jazz musicians and film score masters of his generation, a member of a jazz legacy that has shaped the contours of modern jazz today. With more than 29 albums to his credit, as a musician Blanchard is a multi-Grammy Award winner, winning earlier this year for his instrumental solo for “Be-Bop” on *Live At The 2007 Monterey Jazz Festival*. And In 2008, a Grammy for *A Tale of God's Will (A Requiem for Katrina)*, a beautifully haunting and impassioned song cycle about Hurricane Katrina and the ravages incurred upon the City of New Orleans and its residents.

As a film composer, Blanchard has more than 50 scores to his credit. Amongst others, he has scored many of Spike Lee’s films including *Mo’ Better Blues*, *Malcolm X*, *Miracle at St. Anna* and *25th Hour* which he received a Golden Globe nomination for. He is currently working on the score for George Lucas’ “*Red Tails*” and has just completed scoring on Disney’s “*The Princess and the Frog*.”

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