

For the convenience of concertgoers
the Garden Café remains open until 6:00 pm.

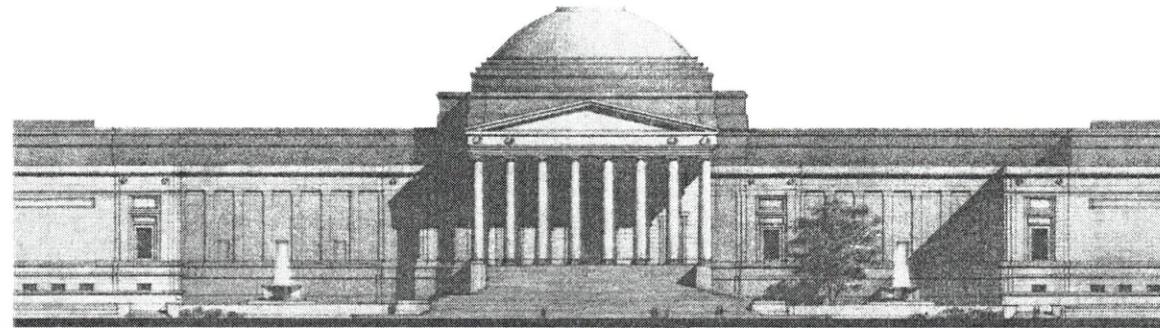
The use of cameras or recording equipment during the
performance is not allowed. Please be sure that cell phones,
pagers, and other electronic devices are turned off.

Please note that late entry or reentry after 6:30 pm
is not permitted.

Music Department
National Gallery of Art
Sixth Street and Constitution Avenue NW
Washington, DC

Mailing address
2000B South Club Drive
Landover, MD 20785

www.nga.gov



The Sixty-third Season of
The William Nelson Cromwell and F. Lamot Belin
Concerts

National Gallery of Art
2,537th Concert

Monty Alexander Trio
Monty Alexander, *piano*
Hassan Ash-Shakur, *bass*
George Fludas, *drums*

May 22, 2005
Sunday Evening, 6:30 pm
East Building Auditorium

Admission free

Program

Monty Alexander will announce the program from the stage.

The Musician

By grafting the traditions of American jazz to his Jamaican roots, pianist Monty Alexander has spent a lifetime exploring the rich depths of musical and cultural diversity. In a career that spans more than four decades, he has performed and recorded with musicians from every corner of the musical universe. The long list of his collaborators includes Frank Sinatra, Ray Brown, and Dizzy Gillespie. Alexander notes: "All these people came from struggling circumstances. They didn't go to music school; they came from the street. . . . It's that story of people who . . . achieve something just because they have this great attitude and . . . the talent to go with it."

Born and raised in Kingston, Jamaica, Alexander took his first piano lessons at age six. During his teen years he enjoyed the performances of Louis Armstrong and Nat "King" Cole at the Carib Theater in Jamaica. The shades of joyful gospel music in those performances had a profound and lasting effect on Alexander's style. He eventually formed a band called Monty and the Cyclones, which produced several songs that hit the Jamaican music charts between 1958 and 1960.

Alexander came to the United States in 1961. His first long-term engagement was in Jilly's, the New York City club owned by Jilly Rizzo. There he accompanied many well-known performers, including Rizzo's friend Frank Sinatra. Alexander's reputation grew and led to performances and recordings with Milt Jackson, Ray Brown, and Dizzy Gillespie as well as Clark Terry, Sonny Rollins, Quincy Jones, and Ernest Ranglin.

In 1995 Alexander made a Jamaican reggae recording, *Yard Movement*, at the Montreux Jazz Festival, where he has been a regular performer since 1976. Among his many other recordings are *Unforgettable*, a tribute to Nat "King" Cole that won seven Grammy awards; *Stir It Up*, an album combining acoustic jazz and Jamaican reggae; *Monty Meets Sly and Robbie*, which features reggae rhythm greats Sly Dunbar and Robbie Shakespeare; *My America*, which includes guest appearances by John Pizzarelli, Freddy Cole, and Kevin Mahogany; and *Impressions in Blue*, an exploration of the bluesier side of jazz.

Summing up his career, Alexander says, "The piano, to me, is a vehicle for connecting to other human beings. I'm very open to all forms of music. I'm not [just] a bebop, calypso, or reggae musician; I'm a musician who loves it all." Monty Alexander appears at the National Gallery by arrangement with Thomas Cassidy, Inc., of Tucson, Arizona.