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QuickTakes!

William Paterson University Jazz Studies Director Bill Charlap Nominated for Grammy Award

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Bill Charlap, the internationally acclaimed jazz pianist and director of the Jazz Studies Program at William Paterson University in Wayne, has been nominated for the 2016 Grammy Award for Best Traditional Pop Vocal album for *The Silver Lining: The Songs of Jerome Kern*, a collaboration with Tony Bennett.

The 2016 Grammy Awards will take place in Los Angeles on Monday, February 15, 2016. This is Mr. Charlap's third Grammy nomination. He was previously nominated for his recordings *Somewhere: The Songs of Leonard Bernstein* and *The Bill Charlap Trio: Live at the Village Vanguard*.

Mr. Charlap, who joined William Paterson as director of jazz studies in September 2015, is considered one of the world's premier jazz pianists. He is known for his interpretations of American popular songs and in addition to this latest collaboration with Tony Bennett, has recorded albums featuring the music of Hoagy Carmichael, Leonard Bernstein and George Gershwin. Charlap has performed with many leading artists, including Phil Woods, Gerry Mulligan and Wynton Marsalis. In 1997, Mr. Charlap formed the Bill Charlap Trio with bassist Peter Washington and drummer Kenny Washington, which is now recognized as one of the leading groups in jazz.

A Blue Note Records recording artist from 2000 to 2010, Mr. Charlap was pianist and musical director for The Blue Note 7, an all-star jazz septet celebrating the legacy of Blue Note Records on its 70th anniversary. The septet performed a 50-city tour and released the CD, *Mosaic: A Celebration of Blue Note Records*. Mr. Charlap, who now records for Impulse!, also serves as the artistic director of New York City's *Jazz in July* Festival at the 92nd Street Y and has produced several concerts for Jazz at Lincoln Center. He is married to renowned jazz



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pianist Renee Rosnes, with whom he often collaborates in a dual piano setting. Mr. Charlap will perform with Ms. Rosnes at New York's Jazz Standard from December 15th to December 20th.

The Jazz Studies Program at William Paterson University in Wayne, New Jersey, founded in 1973, is one of the longest running and most respected jazz programs in the country. The William Paterson University Jazz Studies Program is among the most respected programs in the country; it is one of the few with an emphasis on small-group playing, improvisation and a genuine commitment to the jazz tradition. Celebrating its 40th anniversary in 2013, the program also is one of the nation's five oldest jazz studies degree programs. Jazz majors come to William Paterson from all parts of the United States and all corners of the world to study with its artist/faculty of world-class New York-area jazz professionals. Students currently hail from 23 states and eight foreign countries and include a number of Fulbright Scholars.

Bill Charlap is the fifth world-renowned musician to lead the program, which has been directed by legendary trumpeter and composer/arranger Thad Jones, renowned bassist Rufus Reid, and internationally acclaimed pianist James Williams. Most recently, preeminent pianist Mulgrew Miller, who died in May 2013, directed the program.

Born in New York City, Mr. Charlap began playing the piano at age three. His father was Broadway composer Moose Charlap, whose credits include *Peter Pan*, and his mother is singer Sandy Stewart, who appeared on the Ed Sullivan and Perry Como shows and earned a Grammy nomination for her recording of "My Coloring Book." In 2005, Mr. Charlap and Ms. Stewart released the acclaimed CD, *Love is Here to Stay* (Blue Note).

Upon his appointment as director of jazz studies at William Paterson University, Mr. Charlap noted that "the Jazz Program at William Paterson is recognized throughout the world as one of the finest learning institutions for the evolving professional musician, and I look forward to continuing and expanding on this illustrious legacy. It is my goal to guide the students toward developing a complete command of their instruments and the tools of improvisation, a comprehensive understanding of the music's history, and ultimately to help them on the road to achieving their own personal vision."

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