

Thursday
NOV 2
7:30 pm

Terence Blanchard: *Film Scores Live!*

7x Grammy winner and 2x Oscar nominee performs his movie music live,
featuring the E-Collective and the Lawrence Community Orchestra



Sponsored by



It's our honor at Black Hills Energy to play a part in bringing 7x Grammy winner Terence Blanchard to the Lied Center stage for *Film Scores Live!* Enjoy tonight's performance.

This performance is funded, in part, by:



There will be no intermission during this performance.

PROGRAM

Program will include excerpts of Blanchard's compositions from films such as:

When the Levees Broke: A Requiem in Four Acts

Malcolm X

25th Hour

Red Tails

She Hates Me

Miracle at St. Anna

Inside Man

Chi-Raq

Clockers

Bamboozled

BlackKkKlansman

Program subject to change.

Film Scores Live!

With over 75 credits to his name to date, Terence Blanchard, renowned composer, bandleader and trumpet player, is a true titan in the world of film and television. His major scores include Spike Lee joints such as *BlackKkKlansman*, *Da 5 Bloods*, *Mo Better Blues* and *25th Hour*; Kasi Lemmons films such as *Eve's Bayou* and *Harriet*; along with scores for Regina King (*One Night In Miami...*), George Lucas (*Red Tails*) and Gina Prince (*The Woman King*).

Film Scores Live! showcases the stunning scores and songs from several films, featuring Blanchard's ensemble, the E-Collective, and, for this engagement, members of the Lawrence Community Orchestra. Previous presentations of his film music have included engagements at Carnegie Hall, Orchestra Hall in Chicago, the Hollywood Bowl and many other legacy symphonic halls around the globe. Still images from the films are featured alongside these larger-than-life scores to give the audience a look inside the mind of a genius.

Terence Blanchard

A seven-time Grammy winner and twice Oscar-nominated film composer, Terence Blanchard stands tall as one of jazz's most-esteemed trumpeters and defies expectations by creating a spectrum of artistic pursuits. Blanchard, who is the newly appointed SFJAZZ executive artistic director, is unique in the jazz world as an artist whose creative endeavors go far beyond the genre into film scoring, crafting television series soundscapes and conceiving grand operas that have been recognized at the highest levels of art appreciation.

He 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 almost 20 Spike Lee projects over three decades, ranging from the documentary *When the Levees Broke* to the recent Lee film, *Da 5 Bloods*, Blanchard has interwoven beautiful melodies that created strong backdrops to human stories. He received an Oscar nomination for his original score for *Da 5 Bloods* in 2021, which marked his second nomination.

Blanchard previously received an Oscar nomination for his original score for Spike Lee's *BlackKkKlansman*. He becomes only the second Black composer to be nominated twice in the original score category, duplicating Quincy Jones's feat from 1967's *In Cold Blood* and 1985's *The Color Purple*.

For *One Night in Miami...*, which marked Regina King's feature directorial debut and premiered at the Venice International Film Festival, the Academy Award-winning actress tapped the talents of Blanchard as did Gaz Alazraki, the director of *Father of the Bride*, which debuted on HBO Max. Some of his other film and television credits include Spike Lee's *Malcolm X*, *25th Hour* and *Inside Man*; Kasi Lemmons' films *Eve's Bayou* and *Harriet*; George Lucas's *Red Tails*; the critically acclaimed drama series *Perry Mason*, starring Matthew Rhys with episodes directed by Tim Van Patten, which debuted on HBO in June 2020; the National Geographic limited series *Genius: Aretha*, which premiered in March 2021; HBO's *NYC Epicenters: 9/11 – 2021* ½ documentary miniseries produced and directed by Spike Lee, which premiered in August 2021; the Apple TV+ series *Swagger*, which debuted in October 2021; and Apple TV's docuseries *They Call Me Magic*, which debuted on April 22, 2022 and for which Blanchard received his second Emmy nomination.

More recently, Blanchard wrote the original score for *The Woman King*, directed by Gina Prince-Bythewood and starring Viola Davis, which premiered on September 16, 2022. He also arranged and produced songs for the upcoming feature *A Jazzman's Blues*, written, directed and produced by Tyler Perry. In addition, Blanchard wrote the original score for the upcoming Apple TV+ documentary *Louis Armstrong's Black & Blues*, directed by Sacha Jenkins, and produced by Ron Howard and Brian Grazer's Imagine Documentaries.

Blanchard 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 (OTSL), 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. *Champion* was staged at the Met in April 2023 and will be followed up by a restaging of *Fire Shut Up In My Bones* in May 2024 due to record-setting box office numbers and critical acclaim.

In 2015, he formed the E-Collective—his revolutionary jazz quintet, that is creatively proficient at layering grooves fueled by funk, rock, R&B and the blues. With the E-Collective and a 96-piece orchestra, featured on the score to *BlackKkKlansman*, 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.”

In his thirtieth year as a recording leader, Blanchard delivered *Absence*, a masterwork of sonic zest in collaboration with E-Collective and the acclaimed Turtle Island Quartet, which won Grammy Awards for Best Instrumental Jazz Album and Best Improvised Jazz Solo for Blanchard. It may seem like an irregular pairing, but Blanchard discovered that the quartet proved a perfect fit. “Obviously I’ve worked with strings in my career,” he says. “But Turtle Island has reimagined the language for the string quartet. It’s extremely unique, and what they do is brilliant. Playing together, it’s like a chamber jazz ensemble.”

Recorded in February 2020, just before the COVID-19 lockdowns, *Absence* started out as a project to show gratitude to Wayne Shorter. “I knew that Wayne wasn’t feeling well at the time, so I wanted to honor him to let him know how much he has meant to me,” says Blanchard, who today lives in Los Angeles as well as in his native New Orleans. “When you look at my own writing, you can see how much I’ve learned from Wayne. He mastered writing compositions starting with a simple melody, and then juxtaposing it against the harmonies that come from a different place to make it come alive in a different light.”

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 and Wayne Shorter, who live by their Buddhist philosophy and try to expand the conscience of their communities. I’m standing on all 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.”

As an educator, Blanchard was recognized in 2019 as the Kenny Burrell Chair in jazz studies at the UCLA Herb Alpert School of Music, after serving as artistic director of the Berklee College of Music (2015–2018), the Henry Mancini Institute at the University of Miami (2011–2014) and the Thelonious Monk Institute of Jazz (2000–2011).