



TERENCE BLANCHARD & ANDREW F. SCOTT
THE E-COLLECTIVE | TURTLE ISLAND QUARTET
GORDON PARKS: AN EMPATHETIC LENS

PHILADELPHIA PREMIERE

SATURDAY, **NOVEMBER 12** @ 8 PM

Annenberg Center, Zellerbach Theatre

There will be no intermission.

PENN LIVE ARTS

22/23 SEASON

ABOUT THE ARTISTS

A two-time Oscar® nominee, six-time Grammy® Award-winner and 2018 USA Fellow, trumpeter/composer Terence Blanchard has been a consistent artistic force for making powerful musical statements concerning pivotal moments in American culture – past and present.

From his expansive work composing the scores for Spike Lee films ranging from the documentary *When the Levees Broke*, about Blanchard's hometown of New Orleans during the devastation from Hurricane Katrina to the epic *Malcolm X* and the latest Lee film, *Da 5 Bloods* which was released by Netflix in June 2020, Blanchard has interwoven melodies that created strong backdrops to human stories.

Blanchard received Oscar® nominations for his original scores for Spike Lee's films *BlacKkKlansman* (2018) and *Da 5 Bloods* (2020). He was also BAFTA nominated for his original music for the 2018 film. He won a Grammy® Award for Best Instrumental Composition for writing "Blut Und Boden (Blood and Soil)" a track from *BlacKkKlansman*.

More recently, Blanchard has 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 where it premiered in June 2019.

The Metropolitan Opera premiered a revived version of *Fire Shut Up in My Bones* in September 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.

His current quintet, **The E-Collective**, was featured on the score to *BlacKkKlansman* with a 96-piece orchestra and Blanchard delivered a "soaring, seething, luxuriant score." (*The New York Times*) In *Vice Magazine*, Blanchard elaborates, "In *BlacKkKlansman* 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." Blanchard's E-Collective has now released three acclaimed records on Blue Note®: GRAMMY®-nominated *Breathless* (2015), *LIVE* (2018) and *ABSENCE* (2021), which also features Turtle Island Quartet.

Some of Blanchard's other film and television credits include Spike Lee's *Jungle Fever*, *Summer of Sam*, *25th Hour*, *Inside Man* and *Miracle at St. Anna*; Kasi Lemmons' films, *Eve's Bayou*, *Talk to Me* and *Harriet*; George Lucas' *Red Tails*; Tim Story's *Barbershop*; the powerful documentary *On the Record* which was directed and produced by Kirby Dick and Amy Ziering and premiered on HBO Max in May 2020; and the critically acclaimed drama series *Perry Mason* starring Matthew Rhys with episodes directed by Tim Van Patten which premiered on HBO in June 2020.

Blanchard scored *One Night in Miami*, which marks Regina King's feature directorial debut and was acquired by Amazon Studios and premiered at the Venice International Film Festival in September 2020. The film opened on December 2020 and launched on Prime Video the following month.

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 live by their Buddhist philosophy and try to expand the conscience of their communities. I'm standing on all of 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."

Andrew F. Scott is an artist, educator and art director working at the intersection of digital fabrication technologies and traditional fine arts practice. Trained in sculpture and computer animation, he creates objects, installations and immersive theatrical experiences using projection mapping and LED lighting. Terence Blanchard's album *Breathless*, for which Scott designed the cover art, marked the beginning of their artistic collaboration together. Working with his collaborative partner, Matthew Unkenholz, they have created an improvisational vernacular that expands and unites musical and visual performance. His creative practice spans more than three decades. Working at a variety of scales and in diverse materials, he creates work that is both technically compelling and socially relevant. His work has been exhibited worldwide in galleries, museums and other venues. He has completed several permanent public art projects and participated on design teams with architects and engineers on major civic projects. Born in Brooklyn, New York, he currently resides and works in Dallas, Texas.

Scott is one of three principals in the multimedia show *Caravan*, along with Terence Blanchard and Rennie Harris. In April 2022, he premiered *Presence of Absence: Gordon Parks an Empathic Lens*, a performing arts production at Kansas State University (KSU) honoring Gordon Parks and Wayne Shorter as featured by Terence Blanchard, his band The E-Collective and Turtle Island Quartet, which featured music from *Absence* performed live on the KSU production.