

BENNY GOLSON

Jazz Master Award

The HUJE created the Benny Golson Jazz Master Award in 1996 to honor the legacy of Howard University Alumnus Benny Golson. Dr. Golson, jazz composer and saxophonist, is the composer of jazz standards: *Killer Joe*, *Along Came Betty*, *Blues March*, *I Remember Clifford*, *Stablemates*, and others. The Benny Golson Jazz Master Award has been awarded to the following giants in jazz:

1996 Benny Golson
1997 Frank Wess
1998 Frank Foster
1999 Clark Terry
2000 Grady Tate
2000 Donald Byrd

2001 William "Keter" Betts
2001 Larry Ridley
2001 The Hon. John Conyers, Jr.
2001 Yusef A. Lateef
2002 Frederick C. Tillis
2002 Jimmy Heath
2002 Doris Evans McGinty

2002 Marcus Belgrave
2003 Willie L. Hill, Jr.
2003 Roger "Buck" Hill
2003 LaSalle D. Leffall, Jr.
2003 Eddie Henderson
2004 Charles Tolliver



CHARLES TOLLIVER

Charles Tolliver, trumpeter, composer, arranger, recording company executive, and educator was born in Jacksonville, Florida in 1942. His musical career began at age eight when his beloved grandmother, Lela, presented him with his first instrument, a cornet along with the inspiration to learn. After a few years of college majoring in pharmacy at Howard University, and formulating his trumpet style, he began his professional career with the saxophone giant Jackie Mclean, making his recording debut with Mclean on Blue Note Records in 1964. He has recorded or performed with such renowned artists as Roy Haynes, Horace Silver, McCoy Tyner, Sonny Rollins, Booker Ervin, Gerald Wilson, Oliver Nelson, Roy Ayers, Art Blakey, and Max Roach. A *downbeat* Critic's Choice winner in the trumpet category, Mr. Tolliver was also leader of the quartet, Music Inc., which received international acclaim for its innovative approach. His groups have toured in North and South America, Europe, Scandinavia, and Japan performing at various venues including radio and television. In addition to his brilliant artistry, Charles Tolliver has quietly become one of the premier musical organizers in jazz. In 1971, he and Stanley Cowell formed Strata-East Records, a label that continues to bring to market important artist-produced recordings. Mr. Tolliver is described as a superb technician with an utterly distinctive voice. A trumpeter who produces such flow, tone, control, lyricism and creativity is by definition, a major musician. Charles Tolliver is a brilliant player, capable of handling any tempo or mood. He has perfected an extremely individual and unique sound which clearly sets him apart from other trumpet players. Characterized by a strong sense of tradition, his playing is noted for its brilliance, inventiveness, melodic warmth, and poignancy. His compositions are imaginative, and display masterful writing ability. It is no small wonder that Charles Tolliver has earned the reputation as one of the preeminent trumpeters in jazz.