

The Eli Yamin Jazz Quartet is rooted in the passion of the blues and ecstatic experience of swing and bebop. With New York's Jazz at Lincoln Center as home base, the group has toured extensively on The Rhythm Road: American Music Abroad, a program co-sponsored by The U.S. Department of State and Jazz at Lincoln Center bringing swinging jazz to wildly appreciative audiences in Mali, China, India, Montenegro and Brazil. They have also performed music from their CD, You Can't Buy Swing, at the Obama White House and Blues Alley in Washington DC.

**Eli Yamin** is a jazz and blues pianist, producer, and educator with a giving heart. His CDs include Louie's Dream, for our jazz heroes, a duo with New Orleans based clarinetist Evan Christopher, I Feel So Glad with The Eli Yamin Blues Band, You Can't Buy Swing with his quartet, and his jazz musicals for children, Nora's Ark, about environmental consciousness and accepting difference and Holding the Torch for Liberty, about the fight for women's suffrage. In addition to serving as training specialist and Middle School Jazz Academy Head of Instruction at Jazz at Lincoln Center, Eli is artistic director and co-founder of The Jazz Drama Program, inspiring students and teachers by combining the jazz arts-music, dance, theatre, storytelling and visual arts. Eli is constantly blown away by the power of jazz and blues music to uplift, inspire and unite people of all ages and backgrounds.

A streetwise New York City native born and raised in Washington Heights, alto saxophonist **Lakecia Benjamin** has become one of the most highly sought-after players in jazz, soul and funk music. She first picked up the saxophone at Fiorello LaGuardia High School for the Performing Arts, after which she joined the renowned jazz program at New York's New School University. By that time she was already playing with renowned jazz figures like Clark Terry and Reggie Workman, which led to gigs and tours with a wide array of artists such as Rashied Ali, the David Murray Big Band, Vanessa Rubin and James "Blood" Ulmer. With her deep jazz roots, she was soon in demand as an arranger and horn section leader, landing stints with such acclaimed artists as Stevie Wonder, Alicia Keys, Macy Gray, the Roots, and Anita Baker. As a bandleader, Lakecia recently released an unconventional soul/funk album, RETOX, on Motéma Music. She is also featured on the title track of The Eli Yamin Quartet debut CD, You Can't Buy Swing.

**Jennifer Vincent**, bassist and cellist, has been an active force on the jazz and Latin scenes in the NYC area and all over the world for the past two decades. She plays, records, and tours with the likes of jazz vocal legends Betty Carter, Abbey Lincoln, Carmen Lundy, and Jon Hendricks, Roberto Rodriguez Septet (of Miami Sound Machine), Wynton Marsalis, Fantasia, among many others. She studied with jazz greats Ron Carter and Buster Williams and Latin jazz master Andy Gonzales. Her studies have also taken her to Cuba where she studied with Orlando "Cachaito" Lopez of Buena Vista Social Club. She can be heard on commercials for Lipitor, American Express, Marriott, and Olive Garden, as well as TV shows including Dirty Sexy Money and Dora the Explorer. Her bass lines are featured on NBC's 75th Anniversary Cosby Show Retrospective, as well as the 2006 BBC winner of Best Crossover World Music Awards. She co-leads CoCoMaMa (an 8-piece all-female salsa band) as well as The New Jazz Quartet (exclusively dedicated to original material). For nearly a decade she held the bass chair for the Duke Ellington Orchestra, touring the world over while carrying on the tradition of the longest-running and most legendary orchestra in American history. Currently she is playing bass in the Tony-Nominated Broadway production After Midnight with the Jazz at Lincoln Center All-Stars under the direction of Wynton Marsalis, starring the likes of Fantasia, Tony Braxton, Vanessa Williams, KD Lang, Patti Labelle, and Gladys Knight.

**Craig Holiday Haynes, drummer** has performed and been appreciated in 30 different countries! The Philadelphia Inquirer wrote that, "Craig Haynes is the son of Roy (Haynes) and the equal of his patrimony." Lionel Hampton said, "Craig Haynes' drumming reminds me of the great drummers of the past and like you've never heard before!" Craig was a long time member of The Sun Ra Arkestra and played in Eli Yamin's first NYC-based trio in the early 1990's.