

## New Book, DVD Document Current Jazz Scene

Two new projects—the documentary DVD *Icons Among Us: Jazz In The Present Tense* and Cicily Janus' book *The New Face Of Jazz*—show how the contemporary jazz scene is moving in new directions.

Originally a four-part television series broadcast on the Documentary Channel, *Icons Among Us*, produced by John W. Comford and co-directed by Michael Rivoira, Lars Larson and Peter J. Vogt, picks up where Ken Burns' PBS jazz series left off. Among those interviewed are Marco Benevento, Bill Frisell, Robert Glasper, Nicholas Payton and Esperanza Spalding.

Rivoira, a fan of the music through his work at Seattle's Jazz Alley, felt "a disconnect between contemporary jazz musicians and the new breed of listeners, willing, much like the musicians themselves, to take chances. We asked each of the musicians we filmed who they thought we should seek out, and that's how the project evolved," Rivoira said.

Janus also set out to capture present-day artists telling their stories in their own words. "Jazz has become background commodity at restaurants and parties," Janus said.

A trumpet player herself, Janus began speaking to several of her colleagues, members of the Lincoln Center Jazz Orchestra, who led her to musicians, ranging from George Benson to Darcy James Argue.

—Sharonne Cohen

