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## Prizes, jams at Monk awards



Photographs by James R. Brantley/The Washington Times

Cafe Milano's Franco Nuschese (left at top) managed a quick word with musician Herbie Hancock at the Thelonious Monk Institute of Jazz's post-performance party at the Kennedy Center; Colin Powell took his injured foot in stride; music maestro Quincy Jones (left) caught up with longtime pal Joe Robert.

**T**he Kennedy Center's Eisenhower Theater was SRO Sunday night at the culmination of the three-day 20th-anniversary celebration of the Thelonious Monk Institute of Jazz. After a private concert and dinner at the White House on Thursday and the semifinals for 12 pianists in the institute's international jazz competition on Saturday, the closing-night event featured jam sessions with **Herbie Hancock**, **Wayne Shorter** and **Jane Monheit** and inspirational messages from two former secretaries of state who just happen to be jazz aficionados.

**Colin L. Powell** said he wished the world would take the example of jazz musicians "who know how to share and cooperate," and his predecessor, **Madeleine K. Albright**, reminisced about

how she "energized the stuffy Diplomatic Reception Rooms" at the State Department with upbeat jazz recitals.

**Phylicia Rashad**, **Quincy Jones** and **Billy Dee Williams** were on hand to award the prizes: first place (\$20,000) to Armenian **Tigran Hamasyan**; second place (\$10,000) to Dutch-born **Gerald Clayton**, the crowd's favorite for his rendition of variations on Beethoven's "Pathetique"; and third place (\$5,000) to American **Aaron Parks**.

The high note of the evening was the unannounced appearance of **Stevie Wonder** (recipient of the Maria Fisher Founders Award for "long-time support of the institute and jazz education") who joined **John Patitucci**, **Ron Carter**, **Terence Blanchard**, **Mr. Hancock** and

**Mr. Shorter** in a well-received rendition of "Midnight Sun."

To honor **Thelonious S. Monk** (1917-1982), the all-star musicians also let loose with Mr. Monk's signature piece "Four in One," emphasizing the famed jazz pianist's unusual and innovative composing style and reminding the audience of the universality of jazz.

At the somewhat delayed post-performance party, shutterbugs were torn between photos of Hungarian Ambassador **Andras Simonyi** and his daughter **Sonja** (there to support composition winner **Kalman Olah** of Hungary). Mr. Powell (whizzing around the center on a wheeled cart because of an injured foot), basketball legend **Kareem Abdul-Jabbar**, **Thelonious S. Monk Jr.** and actor **Billy Dee Williams**.

— Jennifer Crier Johnston