

# Kevin Brandon to Rock Concert Hall This Friday

**By Irene Manahan**

*Corsair Staff Writer*

From Justin Timberlake to James Brown, Mary J. Blige to Gladys Knight, and Snoop Dogg to Ray Charles, two-time Grammy-winning bassist and two-time Emmy-winning composer Kevin Brandon has recorded and performed with the best of them.

Since his remarkable success at the 2004 Grammy Awards for OutKast's "Speakerboxxx/The Love Below" album, Brandon has been busier than ever.

He has been producing Milcho Leviev's album "A Voyage Again/Con Mucho Gusto," recording his own album "Brandino Live," and playing with artists Stevie Wonder and Beyonce, with whom he is set to win his next Grammy.

SMC will be lucky enough to have Brandon — better known as Brandino — bring his quartet to blow the roof off our Concert Hall this Friday.

"I'm really looking forward to performing," Brandino tells the *Corsair*. "I hope the students get a history lesson, some background, of classic, traditional jazz."

Brandino inspires students with his music, and with his story.

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The streets of Compton, or "the hood" as Brandino refers to it, didn't offer much to the young musical genius suffering from congenital clubfoot and hip displacement.

But he didn't let that stop him.

He played in his family band—the piano at age 4, saxophone at 7, bass guitar at 9 and flute at 13. Ever since then, he knew he wanted to pursue a life dedicated to music.

Jazz, classical, hip-hop, and pop

— Brandino loves it all: "I grew up listening to a wide spectrum of all different types of music," he said. "It's amazing to see how jazz evolved over the years. I've listened to the full circle. I've seen, especially with hip-hop, different movements and stages. To me, hip-hop is swing and jazz with a backbeat."

After high school, Brandino declined a full scholarship to USC and graced the Cerritos and Long Beach College campuses, both known for having excellent jazz programs, with his presence.

Little did he know that he would soon after play with the Tommy Dorsey Orchestra in NYC.

The rest is history. Brandino now boasts an impressive clientele including legendary and contemporary music gurus like Aretha Franklin, Luther Vandross, Patti La Belle, Jamiroquai, Vanessa Williams, Chaka Khan, Barry White, Dione Warwick, the Beach Boys, the Emotions, the Temptations...the list goes on.

He also developed the non-profit organization: You Can Do It If You Try.

The foundation hopes to encourage the physically and mentally challenged of inner cities and serve to spiritually motivate people of all ages through music, learning, art, speech and example.

The Music Department is very excited to present Brandino's quartet on Sept. 8 in the Concert Hall. Listen as they perform acoustic selections from "Brandino Live."

## ***Save The Date***

Jon Mayer, the playful pianist, and his quartet are set to perform on Friday Oct. 20, 7 p.m. SMC Concert Hall. \$10