

A photograph of Bill Charlap, a pianist, wearing a dark suit and tie, looking down intently at his hands as he plays a piano. The lighting is dramatic, with strong highlights on his face and hands against a dark background.

"Bill Charlap approaches a song the way a lover approaches his beloved. He wants to know its origins, its shape, its moods. He wants to view it from every angle—melody, harmony, lyrics, verse. He even wants to hear about its romantic history—what other improvisers have done with it. When he sits down to play, the result is an embrace, an act of possession....But no matter how imaginative or surprising his take on a song is, he invariably zeroes in on its essence."

TIME MAGAZINE

# Bill Charlap **TRIO**

**Bill Charlap** is regarded as one of the premiere interpreters of the Great American Songbook. His last project, **Plays George Gershwin: The American Soul** was a direct follow-up to his critically acclaimed Grammy nominated release, **Somewhere, The Songs Of Leonard Bernstein**.

His latest release for Blue Note Records is Charlap's first live recording date, **The Bill Charlap Trio—Live at The Village Vanguard**, a nine-song snapshot of the New York-born and -based pianist who supplies a rigor-meets-romance musical sensibility. The superb set features the pianist and his longstanding, decade-old trio of bassist Peter Washington and drummer Kenny Washington, a brilliant rhythm team with two of the most informed musicians on their instruments. The date features tunes from such renowned jazz composers as Gerry Mulligan and Jim Hall and, of course, music from the Great American Songbook.