



HERBIE HANCOCK
INSTITUTE OF JAZZ

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Contact: JB Dyas
jbdyas@hancockinstitute.org
323.270.3904 (cell); 310.206.9501 (office)

HERBIE HANCOCK INSTITUTE BRINGS ALL-STAR HIGH SCHOOL JAZZ QUINTET TO DELAWARE PUBLIC SCHOOLS AS PART OF NATIONAL PEER-TO-PEER EDUCATION INITIATIVE, MAY 16-20 FEATURING INTERNATIONALLY RENOWNED RECORDING ARTISTS **BOBBY WATSON** AND **LISA HENRY**

WEEKLONG SERIES OF EVENTS INCLUDES TWO PERFORMANCES
OPEN TO THE PUBLIC AT **KEYSTONE KORNER** IN BALTIMORE, MD ON MAY 22

Washington, DC – With lead funding from the National Endowment for the Arts and United Airlines, the Herbie Hancock Institute of Jazz will bring its Peer-to-Peer jazz education program to Delaware public schools May 16-20, 2022. Combining performance with educational information, these “informances” will be presented by the National Peer-to-Peer Jazz Quintet, comprising five of the country’s most gifted high school music students. They will be featured alongside internationally acclaimed saxophone recording artist **Bobby Watson**, Kansas City jazz and blues vocalist and a former winner of the Institute’s International Jazz Vocals Competition **Lisa Henry**, and renowned jazz educator **Dr. JB Dyas**. Each school visit will include an assembly program featuring a musical performance for all students, followed by workshops for each school’s jazz band and choir with the visiting student performers playing alongside and sharing ideas with their Delaware counterparts.

“We’ve found that sometimes young people can learn about certain things better from kids their same age, and one of them is jazz,” said jazz great **Herbie Hancock**, Institute Chairman, NEA Jazz Master, and Goodwill Ambassador for the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO). “And when you hear how accomplished these musicians are at such a young age, you know their peers are going to listen.”

Besides playing jazz at a level that belies their years, the students will talk with their Delaware peers about what jazz is, why it’s important to America, and how a jazz ensemble represents a perfect democracy. They also will discuss the important American values that jazz represents: teamwork, freedom with responsibility, unity with ethnic diversity, the correlation of hard work and goal accomplishment, and the importance of finding a passion early in life, being persistent, and believing in yourself. When young people hear this important message from kids their same age, they are often more likely to listen.

The members of the all-star quintet selected nationwide to participate in the Delaware tour include trumpeter **Loren Littlejohn** (18) from Dallas; tenor saxophonist **Leo Milano** (17) from Chicago; pianist **José André Montaña** (16) from Washington, DC; bassist **Camara Dupree** (16) from New Orleans; and drummer **Matthew Fu** (18) from Houston. “I had the opportunity to sit in with Mr. Watson the last time he performed at the Jazz Showcase in Chicago” said Milano, who is one of the best tenor saxophonists for his age in the country. “I’ve been a big fan of his for a long time, and now having the opportunity to tour with and learn from him is really incredible!”

Immediately following the informances, Watson, Henry, and Dyas will conduct jazz workshops for each host school’s jazz band and choir. The visiting students will play side-by-side with their Delaware counterparts, providing tutelage peer to peer. In so doing, they will teach and learn from one another not unlike what Herbie Hancock did with Miles Davis, Wayne Shorter, and so many other eminent band mates over the past half century. They’ll also learn about each other’s cities and cultures.

“We’re really looking forward to traveling to this historic part of the country,” added Fu, who was recently selected to this year’s edition of the Carnegie Hall National Youth Jazz Orchestra. “We’re even planning a day trip to Philadelphia to see the Liberty Bell and other U.S. historical landmarks.”

The weeklong tour will conclude with two performances open to the public on **May 22** at Baltimore’s iconic jazz club, **Keystone Korner** (1350 Lancaster St.), where Baltimore residents and visitors are invited to enjoy an evening of music with Watson and Henry alongside jazz’s future “young lions.” The septet will perform standards, jazz classics, and contemporary jazz, including compositions from Watson’s and Henry’s latest recordings. The shows begin at 5:00 pm and 7:30 pm. For further information call 410-946-6726 or visit www.keystonekornerbaltimore.com.

ABOUT THE ARTISTS & EDUCATORS



Bobby Watson is one of the top alto saxophonists in the world. He grew up in Kansas City, studied formally at the University of Miami, and then moved to New York where he was to become a member of Art Blakey's *Jazz Messengers*, one of the most important groups in the history of jazz. He later formed *Horizon*, the quintessential contemporary hard bop quintet of the 1980s and '90s. Known for his extraordinary ability to play swing, hard bop, and contemporary jazz, Watson has appeared at every major venue and jazz festival worldwide and has recorded more than 100 albums as a leader, sideman, or guest artist. He is also one of the most gifted and prolific composers of his generation (with more than 100 recorded compositions to his credit) and is the recipient of numerous national and international awards and citations, including being named *#1 Alto Sax Player* and *Musician of the Year* in *DownBeat Magazine's* Critic's Poll. Besides being an internationally acclaimed performer and composer, Watson is an esteemed jazz educator and enjoys working with up-and-coming young jazz artists. He serves as Professor Emeritus of Jazz Studies at the University of Missouri-Kansas City and presents jazz workshops around the globe. His latest recording, *Keepin' It Real* (Smoke Session Records, 2020), has received critical acclaim. www.bobbywatson.com



Lisa Henry is a dynamic vocalist with a combination of swingin' cool and down home class. A Kansas City native, she began by singing gospel music in the Baptist church, and by age 12 was singing the music of Billie Holiday and Miles Davis. Henry was a winner of the Herbie Hancock Institute's International Jazz Vocals Competition and was later named an International Jazz Ambassador to Africa. She toured Chile, Argentina, and Peru with the Institute in the 1990s, performing for 34 Heads of State at the Summit of the Americas. In 2006 she participated in a U.S. State Department-sponsored tour of India and performed for an esteemed presidential dinner at the White House, celebrating the Institute's 20th Anniversary. Over the past 25 years, Henry has toured the globe, sharing the stage with such artists as Ambrose Akinmusire, Kenny Barron, Don Braden, Bobby Broom, Gerald Clayton, Robin Eubanks, Kenny Garrett, Herbie Hancock, Roy Hargrove, Antonio Hart, Ingrid Jensen, Sean Jones, Kevin Mahogany, Delfeayo Marsalis, Wayne Shorter, Terell Stafford, Bobby Watson, and Steve Wilson. Her *Live from 18th and Vine* recording has been lauded by jazz fans and critics alike. www.lisahenryjazz.com



Dr. JB Dyas has been a leader in jazz education for the past two decades. Formerly the Executive Director of the Brubeck Institute, Dyas currently serves as Vice President for Education and Curriculum Development at the Herbie Hancock Institute of Jazz. He oversees the Institute's education and outreach programs including *Jazz In America: The National Jazz Curriculum* (www.jazzinamerica.org), one of the most significant and wide-reaching jazz education programs in the world. Throughout his career, he has performed across the country, taught students at every level, directed large and small ensembles, and developed and implemented new jazz curricula. He has written for *DownBeat* magazine and other national music publications, presented numerous jazz workshops, teacher-training seminars and jazz "informances" around the globe with such renowned artists as Dave Brubeck and Herbie Hancock, and has made a series of teacher-training jazz education videos. Dr. Dyas received his master's degree in Jazz Pedagogy from the University of Miami and PhD in Music Education from Indiana University, and is a recipient of the DownBeat Achievement Award for Jazz Education. www.jbdyas.com.

ABOUT THE HERBIE HANCOCK INSTITUTE OF JAZZ

The Herbie Hancock Institute of Jazz is a nonprofit education organization with a mission to offer the world's most promising young musicians college level training by internationally acclaimed jazz masters and to present public school music education programs for young people around the world. The Institute preserves, perpetuates and expands jazz as a global art form, and utilizes jazz as a means to unite people of all ages, backgrounds and nationalities. All of the Institute's programs are provided free of charge to students, schools and communities worldwide. The Institute's programs use jazz as the medium to encourage imaginative thinking, creativity, a positive self-image, and respect for one's own and others' cultural heritage. Founded in 1986 as the Thelonious Monk Institute of Jazz, the organization began operating as the Herbie Hancock Institute of Jazz in 2019 in recognition of Mr. Hancock's commitment to the Institute since its establishment, his expert guidance as Institute Chairman, and his immense contributions to and impact on music, education and humanity. www.hancockinstitute.org.

ABOUT THE NATIONAL PERFORMING ARTS HIGH SCHOOL JAZZ PROGRAM

The Herbie Hancock Institute's National Performing Arts High School Jazz Program facilitates the education of gifted music students who attend public performing arts high schools across the nation. The Program offers them opportunities to participate in pre-conservatory, highly specialized, performance-based jazz curricula; study with some of the world's most eminent jazz artists and educators; perform in jazz ensembles comprising their peers; and prepare for entry into the country's most distinguished conservatories and university schools of music. Included is instruction in Jazz Improvisation, Theory, Composition, History, and Styles and Analysis. The Institute works with each school in developing jazz curricula and instructional methodology; provides ongoing private and group instruction with Institute teaching staff, visiting artists and educators; offers special residences with jazz masters; arranges high-profile performance opportunities for the student ensembles; and assists graduating seniors with securing college scholarships.

ABOUT THE PEER-TO-PEER JAZZ EDUCATION INITIATIVE

Through the Herbie Hancock Institute's National Peer-to-Peer Jazz Education Initiative, which receives lead funding from the National Endowment for the Arts and United Airlines, outstanding music students from public performing arts high schools across the nation are invited to participate in weeklong peer-to-peer jazz informance tours. The young musicians gain invaluable performance experience playing alongside internationally acclaimed artists while they, in turn, help educate young audiences in public schools throughout the U.S. about jazz, America's indigenous musical art form. In so doing, they not only help develop jazz audiences for the future, but also exemplify the deeply held American values that jazz represents: teamwork, unity with ethnic diversity, democracy, persistence, and the vital importance of really listening to one another.

Delaware Peer-to-Peer Jazz Informance, Concert, and Workshop Schedule

<u>Date</u>	<u>Event</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Location</u>
Monday, May 16	Assembly Program/Concert Jazz Band and Vocal Workshops	12:30 pm 1:30 pm	Central Middle School 211 Delaware Avenue, Dover, DE 19901 302-672-1772 • Shan Green, Principal
Tuesday, May 17	Assembly Program/Concert Jazz Band and Vocal Workshops	9:15 am 10:45 am	Dover High School 1 Dover High Drive, Dover, DE 19904 302-241-2400 • Shawndell Solomon, Principal
Wednesday, May 18	Assembly Program/Concert Jazz Band and Vocal Workshops	9:10 am 10:45 am	Concord High School 2501 Ebright Road, Wilmington, DE 19810 302-475-3951 • Mark Mayer, Principal
Thursday, May 19	Assembly Program/Concert Jazz Band and Vocal Workshops	9:10 am 10:45 am	Mount Pleasant High School 5201 Washington St. Ext., Wilmington, DE 19809 302-762-7125 • Curi Calderón-Lacy, Principal
* Friday, May 20	Assembly Program/Concert Jazz Band and Vocal Workshops	9:10 am 10:45 am	Brandywine High School 1400 Foulk Road, Wilmington, DE 19803 302-479-1600 • Keith Rolph, Principal
Sunday, May 22	Concerts Open to the Public	5:00 pm 7:30 pm	Keystone Korner 1350 Lancaster Street, Baltimore, MD 21231 410-946-6726 • Todd Barkan, Proprietor

EDITORS:

* Media Day/VIP Concert

Friday, May 20 • 9:10 am – Brandywine High School, 1400 Foulk Rd, Wilmington, DE 19803 (302-479-1600).
VIP guests include Wilmington Mayor **Michael Purzycki**.

For more information, full-length bios, and photos, or to schedule an interview with one of the artists and/or students, please contact: **JB Dyas** at jbdyas@hancockinstitute.org or 323-270-3904.

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