

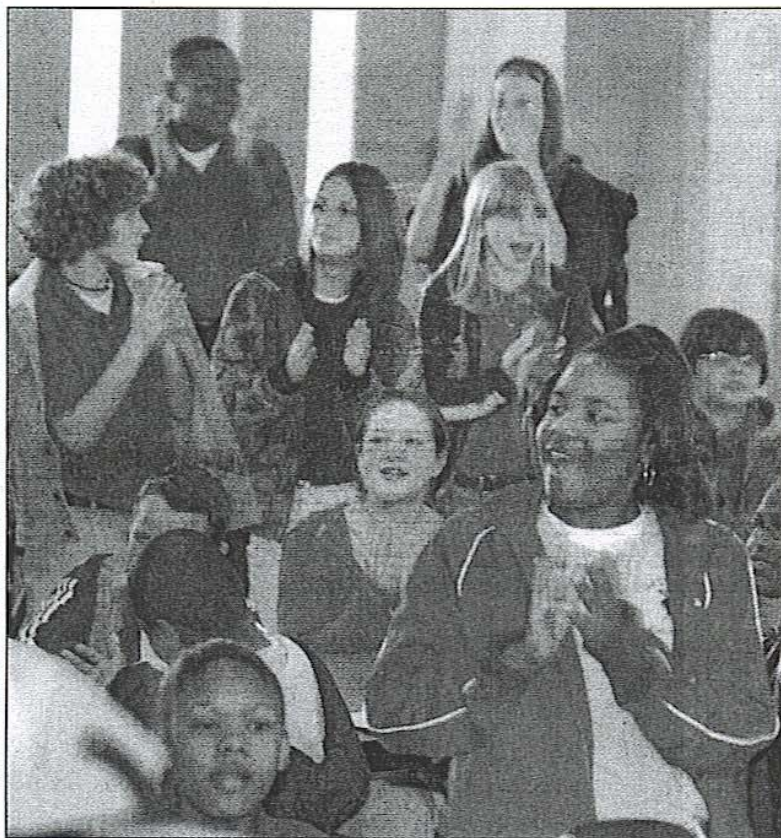
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F E B R U A R Y 1 1 , 2 0 0 5

All that jazz



DAVID FURDY/THE SUN HERALD

Gautier Middle School students give a standing ovation after a jazz performance at the school on Thursday afternoon. The performance was presented by Thelonious Monk Jr., the son of legendary musician Thelonious Sphere Monk, to give students in Pascagoula and Gautier a taste of a great American art form. Monk Jr., with the financial backing of Northrop Grumman and the National Endowment for the Arts, brought the Thelonious Monk Institute of Jazz, a nonprofit educational organization, to Jackson County this week. The tour, during Black History Month, is intended to introduce 'Jazz in America: The National Jazz Curriculum' to public schools in Mississippi. **Story A-4**

**For more on the Thelonious Monk Institute of Jazz,
check out www.sunherald.com.**



DAVID PURDY/THE SUN HERALD

Vocalist Lisa Henry and saxophonist Bobby Watson entertain students with a jazz performance at Gautier Middle School on Thursday afternoon.

Jazz musicians move Pascagoula students

Program inspires passion for music

EDUCATION Jackson County students are introduced to jazz as part of a new curriculum introduced into the schools.

By VIVIAN AUSTIN
THE SUN HERALD

PASCAGOULA — Robert Madson secured photographs of jazz musicians Bobby Watson and Thelonious Monk Jr. following a lively and interactive music session with students at the Pascagoula High gymnasium Wednesday morning.

"It's a real great experience," said the 15-year-old, who plays tenor saxophone. "It makes it real that there are people out there with similar desires."

Watson, Monk and other band members visited PHS as part of the school's observance of Black History Month. Monk, son of jazz composer and pianist Thelonious Monk, uses "Jazz In America: the National Jazz Curriculum" to bring jazz and its history to students across America.

Northrop Grumman Corp. funded the Mississippi Public School Tour with assistance from Sen. Thad Cochran. The tour included Jackson, Gulfport, Hattiesburg and Pascagoula. The group also visited Gautier Middle School.

"We are about young people," said Monk, chairman of the Thelonious Monk Institute of Jazz. He advises students to listen to a variety of music styles.

Watson, a saxophonist, pianist Richard Johnson, bass player Derek Nievergelt and drummer Otis Brown III treated the students to several improvised jazz melodies, including a Herbie Hancock piece and Watson's version of "Amazing Grace."

The students danced, cheered and gave standing ovations. Guest singer Lisa Henry had them sing along with "I'm Going to Kansas City," and surprised them by singing "Meet the Flintstones," which she said is jazz music.



DAVID PURDY/THE SUN HERALD

Bass player Derek Nievergelt, left, and saxophonist Bobby Watson .



Monk Jr.



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J.B. Dyas, project director of Jazz in America, gave history lessons about the origins of jazz, and a music lesson that demonstrated how jazz is composed and played by chorus that allows each musician to play independently yet still as a unified group.

"It was good. I don't even like jazz, but I liked this," said Crystal Davis, 17. "This made me want to play jazz. Maybe I'll join the jazz band next year."