

# Rocky Mount TELEGRAM

ROCKY MOUNT, NORTH CAROLINA ■ SUNDAY, OCTOBER 8, 2006

## Monk institute to start traveling jazz program here

By **NATALIE JORDAN**  
Staff Writer

The Thelonious Monk Jazz Institute dedicated to jazz legend Thelonious Monk, one of Rocky Mount's own, has started a traveling educational program.

And with a push from civic leaders in Rocky Mount, that program will start the tour right here.

After receiving support from the National Endowment for the Arts, the nonprofit organization will introduce Jazz in America – a national jazz curriculum to students – between Monday and


Friday. The first performance will be held from 10 to 11 a.m. Monday – the day before what would have been Monk's 89th birthday – at Rocky Mount High School, where about 600 students will hear a five-piece jazz combo led by renowned saxophonist Bobby Watson.

From there, the program will engage in assemblies and band clinics at high schools in Raleigh, Durham and Charlotte.

In addition to the five-piece jazz combo, a presentation called "What is Jazz?" will be made, as well as a question-and-answer session with students. Thelonious

### HONORING ONE OF THE GREATS

- **The program:** Jazz in America by the Thelonious Monk Jazz Institute.
- **First performance:** 10 to 11 a.m. Monday at Rocky Mount High School.
- **The purpose:** The institute brings together living jazz musicians to teach.
- **Additional speaker:** Thelonious Monk Jr.
- **Cost:** Free.



MONK

Monk Jr., chairman of the institute's Board of Trustees and son of the late jazz pianist and composer,

will make remarks about jazz and its role in American culture.

Throughout the weeklong visit,

the institute will present a series of jazz assembly programs, jazz band clinics and vocal master classes.

The tour will be headlined by Watson but will include other greats such as vocalist Lisa Henry, a winner of the Thelonious Monk International Jazz Vocals Competition.

The members of the rhythm section are Richard Johnson, piano; Derek Nievergelt, bass; and Otis Brown III, drums.

While Brown attended the

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## MONK

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Thelonious Monk Institute Jazz Colony in Aspen, Colo., Nievergelt and Johnson are graduates of the Thelonious Monk Institute of Jazz Performance, a graduate-level college program that offers musicians the chance to study tuition-free with living jazz legends such as Herbie Hancock, Wayne Shorter and Clark Terry.

The institute was established in memory of Thelonious Monk, who was born Oct. 10, 1917, and died in 1982. The institute brings together living jazz musicians to teach.