



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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HERBIE HANCOCK INSTITUTE BRINGS ALL-STAR HIGH SCHOOL JAZZ QUINTET TO ARKANSAS  
PUBLIC SCHOOLS AS PART OF NATIONAL PEER-TO-PEER EDUCATION INITIATIVE, MAY 15-19  
FEATURING INTERNATIONALLY RENOWNED RECORDING ARTISTS **DON BRADEN** AND **LISA HENRY**

WEEKLONG SERIES OF EVENTS INCLUDES A PERFORMANCE OPEN TO THE PUBLIC AT  
THE **WALTON ARTS CENTER** IN FAYETTEVILLE ON MAY 18

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 Arkansas public schools May 15-19, 2023. Combining performance with educational information, these “informances” will be presented by the Institute’s 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 **Don Braden**, 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 Arkansas 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 Arkansas 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, unity with ethnic diversity, the correlation of hard work and goal accomplishment, perseverance, 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 Arkansas tour include trumpeter **Giovanni Martinez** (18) from Jacksonville, FL; trombonist **Andre Perlman** (17) from Miami; pianist **William Schwartzman** (17) from Los Angeles; bassist **Laura-Simone Martin** (17) from Lawrence, NJ; and drummer **Julian Frazier** (16) from Baltimore. “We’ve been meeting with Dr. Dyas online via Zoom since the beginning of the year, and we’re so happy that we are now finally able to perform with each other in person,” said Martin, who also was recently selected as the bassist for this year’s edition of Carnegie Hall’s National Youth Jazz Orchestra with whom she’ll tour Europe this summer. “It’s been both a joy and a challenge to prepare Mr. Braden’s music and we’re so looking forward to playing with and learning from him.”

Immediately following the informances, Braden, 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 Arkansas 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 jazz artists over half a century. They’ll also learn about each other’s cities and cultures.

“I’m really looking forward to spending a week in such a different part of the country,” added Schwartzman, who also was recently selected to the Carnegie Hall National Youth Jazz Orchestra. “I suspect that the kids in Arkansas and I have way more in common than differences. And whatever differences we may have, as jazz musicians we celebrate them.”

The weeklong tour will include a concert open to the public on May 18, 7:00 pm, at the **Walton Arts Center** in Fayetteville (495 W Dickson St), where Fayetteville residents and visitors are invited to enjoy an evening of music with Braden and Henry alongside jazz’s future “young lions.” The septet will perform standards, jazz classics and contemporary jazz, including Braden’s jazz arrangements of Earth, Wind, & Fire and Stevie Wonder songs from his latest album, *Earth, Wind, and Wonder*. For further information, call 479-443-5600 or visit <https://waltonartscenter.org>.

## ABOUT THE ARTISTS & EDUCATORS



**Don Braden** is one of the top tenor saxophonists and jazz flutists on the scene today. Appearing on more than 100 albums, including 20 as leader, Braden has recorded and performed around the globe with such eminent jazz artists as Randy Brecker, Betty Carter, Gerald Clayton, Herbie Hancock, Tom Harrell, Roy Haynes, Freddie Hubbard, Dave Liebman, Wynton Marsalis, Christian McBride, Terell Stafford, Dave Stryker, Jeff “Tain” Watts and Tony Williams. He is also a prolific and versatile composer, writing for ensembles ranging from duo to full symphonic orchestra in all styles of jazz, pop and world music for recordings, film and television. Besides being an internationally acclaimed performer and composer, Braden is a renowned jazz educator and has served on the faculties of Harvard, Montclair State and William Paterson universities. Formerly the artistic director of New Jersey Performing Arts Center’s Jazz for Teens program, Braden currently serves as music director for the Litchfield Jazz Camp and presents workshops and master classes around the world. His newest recording, *Earth, Wind, and Wonder Volume 2* – comprising his jazz arrangements of Earth, Wind & Fire and Stevie Wonder tunes – will be released in June 2023. [www.donbraden.com](http://www.donbraden.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](http://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](http://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 created 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.

## 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](http://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 perseverance, and the vital importance of really listening to one another.

### Arkansas Peer-to-Peer Jazz Informance, Concert, and Workshop Schedule

<u>Date</u>	<u>Event</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Location</u>
Monday, May 15	Assembly Program/Concert Jazz Band and Vocal Workshops	10:30 am 12:30 pm	<b>Parkview Arts &amp; Science Magnet High School</b> 2501 John Barrow Rd, Little Rock, AR 72204 501-447-2303 • Eric Henderson, Principal
* Tuesday, May 16	Assembly Program/Concert Jazz Band and Vocal Workshops	10:30 am 12:30 pm	<b>Little Rock Southwest High School</b> 9715 Mabelvale Pike, Mabelvale, AR 72103 501-447-9100 • Xavier Hodo, Principal
* Wednesday, May 17	Assembly Program/Concert Jazz Band and Vocal Workshops	10:30 am 12:30 pm	<b>Fayetteville High School</b> 994 M.L.K. Jr Blvd, Fayetteville, AR 72701 479-444-3050 • Dr. Michelle Miller, Principal
* Thursday, May 18	Assembly Program/Concert Jazz Band and Vocal Workshops	10:00 am 11:30 am	<b>Bentonville High School Arend Arts Center</b> 1901 SE J St, Bentonville, AR 72712 479-254-5100 • Jack Loyd, Principal
Thursday, May 18	Concert Open to the Public	7:00 pm	<b>Walton Arts Center</b> 495 W Dickson St, Fayetteville, AR 72701 479-443-5600
Friday, May 19	Assembly Program/Concert Jazz Band and Vocal Workshops	10:00 am 11:30 am	<b>Bentonville West High School</b> 1351 Gamble Rd, Centerton, AR 72719 479-286-9800 • Dr. Jonathon Guthrie, Principal

#### EDITORS:

#### \* Media Day/VIP Concerts

- Little Rock – Tuesday, May 16 • 10:30 am – Little Rock Southwest High School, 9715 Mabelvale Pike, Mabelvale, AR 72103
- Fayetteville – Wednesday, May 17 • 10:30 am – Fayetteville High School, 994 M.L.K. Jr Blvd, Fayetteville, AR 72701
- Bentonville – Thursday, May 18 • 10:00 am – Bentonville High School Arend Arts Center, 1901 SE J St, Bentonville, AR 72712

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

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