



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
April 3, 2015

Contact: JB Dyas  
jbdyas@monkinstitute.org  
323.270.3904 (cell); 310.206-9501 (office)

THELONIOUS MONK INSTITUTE BRINGS GIFTED HIGH SCHOOL JAZZ QUINTET TO TUCSON AND PHOENIX PUBLIC SCHOOLS AS PART OF NATIONAL PEER-TO-PEER EDUCATION PROGRAM, APRIL 13-17 FEATURING INTERNATIONALLY RENOWNED RECORDING ARTISTS **BOBBY BROOM** AND **CHARENEE WADE**

WEEKLONG SERIES OF EVENTS INCLUDES APRIL 16 PUBLIC PERFORMANCE AT **THE NASH** IN PHOENIX

Washington, D.C. – With lead funding from the National Endowment for the Arts and United Airlines, the Thelonious Monk Institute of Jazz will bring its “Peer-to-Peer” jazz education program to Tucson and Phoenix public schools April 13-17. Combining performance with educational information, these “informances” will be presented by five exceptionally gifted music students from the Booker T. Washington High School for the Arts in Dallas, one of 12 public performing arts magnet schools around the country participating in the Institute’s National Performing Arts High School Jazz Program. They will be featured with internationally acclaimed jazz guitarist **Bobby Broom**, New York jazz vocalist and past winner of the Thelonious Monk International Jazz Vocals Competition **Charenee Wade**, and renowned jazz educator **Dr. JB Dyas**. Each school visit will include an assembly program featuring a musical performance for all students, followed by jazz workshops for each school’s jazz band and choir with the visiting student performers playing alongside and sharing ideas with their Arizona counterparts.

“As young people are so influenced by kids their own age, who better to expose them to this great American art form than those of their own generation?” said Thelonious Monk, Jr., Chairman of the Institute’s Board of Trustees and son of legendary jazz pianist and composer Thelonious Monk. “And when you hear how great these young kids play, you know the future of our music is in good hands.”

Besides playing jazz at a level that belies their years, the Dallas students will talk with their Tucson and Phoenix peers about what jazz is, why it’s important to America, and how a jazz ensemble represents a perfect democracy. They also will discuss 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 more likely to listen.

The five Dallas students selected to participate in the Arizona tour include trumpeter **Sam Schwall**, saxophonist **Addison Jordan**, pianist **Rowan Barcham**, bassist **Isaac Brodsky**, and drummer **Rory Green**. “We’re really looking forward to the trip,” said Schwall, one of the best jazz trumpeters for his age in the country. “Learning Bobby Broom’s music from his last couple of recordings has been fun as well as a challenge – everything from bebop to contemporary.”

Immediately following the informances, Broom, Wade, and Dyas will conduct jazz workshops for each host school’s jazz band and choir in which the visiting students will play with their Arizona counterparts side-by-side, providing tutelage peer to peer. In so doing, they will teach and learn from one another not unlike Thelonious Monk did with his fellow musicians during the bebop era some 60 years ago. They’ll also learn about each other’s cities and culture.

“We’re especially looking forward to hanging out and playing jazz with kids from Arizona,” exclaimed Jordan, who is already performing professionally. “They always score big at the Essentially Ellington Competition in New York.” Indeed, the Tucson Jazz Institute Ensemble, comprising the best high school students from Tucson and surrounding area, has placed first in this prestigious national high school jazz competition the past two years.

The weeklong tour will include a concert open to the public on **April 16** at the world famous **The Nash, 10 East Roosevelt Street**, where Phoenix residents and visitors are invited to enjoy an evening of music with Broom and Wade alongside jazz’s future “young lions.” The septet will perform standards, jazz classics, and contemporary jazz, including compositions from Broom’s and Wade’s latest CD releases. Shows begin at 7:00 & 9:00 pm. For further information call **602-795-0464** or visit **www.thenash.org**.

## ABOUT THE ARTISTS & EDUCATORS



**Bobby Broom** is one of the top jazz guitarists on the scene today. Born and raised in New York, Broom made his first appearance at the age of 16 at Carnegie Hall with jazz icon Sonny Rollins, with whom he has since toured all over the globe and made numerous recordings. He also has performed and/or recorded with such eminent jazz artists as Eric Alexander, Art Blakey, Kenny Burrell, Ron Carter, Miles Davis, Dr. John, Charles Earland, Kenny Garrett, Ramsey Lewis, Marcus Miller, Dr. Lonnie Smith, and Stanley Turrentine. Broom resides in Chicago, where he regularly performs and records with the Deep Blue Organ Trio as well as his own trio. His 2012 release, *Upper West Side Story* (Origin Records), comprising original compositions exclusively, was hailed as one of the Best CDs of 2012 by *DownBeat* magazine. Broom also ranks among the top guitarists in the annual *DownBeat* Critics' Poll. Besides being an internationally acclaimed performer and composer, Broom is a dedicated jazz educator and enjoys working with up-and-coming young artists. A former faculty member at the American Conservatory of Music, as well as the University of Hartford and DePaul and Roosevelt Universities, Broom currently teaches at North Park University and presents jazz workshops at high schools, universities, and jazz festivals worldwide. His latest recording, *My Shining Hour* (Origin, 2014), was named #1 Record of the Year by Audiophile Ezine *Something Else*. [www.bobbybroom.com](http://www.bobbybroom.com)



**Charene Wade** is one of the most dynamic and creative vocalists of her generation. A Brooklyn native, she began singing at age 12 and gigging around New York in her teens. She later went on to receive her master's degree at the Manhattan School of Music, where she studied both classical music and jazz. Wade was a winner of the 2010 Thelonious Monk International Jazz Vocals Competition. She has since performed at such prestigious venues as Lincoln Center in New York and the Kennedy Center in Washington, DC, and at such eminent festivals as festival du Riou and the Montreux Jazz Festival. She also can be heard frequently at New York's top jazz clubs, including Dizzy's Club Coca-Cola, the Jazz Standard, Minton's, Smalls, Smoke, and the Zinc Bar. Wade is currently on tour with her "Who is Billie Holiday" project, which debuted at Lincoln Center earlier this year. Besides being an extraordinary vocalist, Wade is a talented composer, arranger, and educator and is a member of the music faculty at Queens College and City College in New York. Her latest recording, *Love Walked In*, has received critical acclaim. [www.chareneemusic.com](http://www.chareneemusic.com)



**Dr. J.B. 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 Thelonious Monk 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 initiatives in the world. Throughout his career, Dyas has performed across the country, taught students at every level, directed large and small ensembles, developed and implemented new jazz curricula, and written for national music publications. He has served on the Smithsonian Institution's Task Force for Jazz Education in America and presented numerous jazz education events worldwide with such artists as Dave Brubeck and Herbie Hancock. 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 THELONIOUS MONK INSTITUTE OF JAZZ

The Thelonious Monk Institute of Jazz is a nonprofit education organization established in memory of Thelonious Monk, the legendary jazz pianist and composer. Monk was one of the primary architects of bebop, and his impact as both a performer and composer has had a profound influence on every genre of music. He believed the best way to learn jazz was from a master of the music. The Institute follows that same philosophy by bringing together the greatest living jazz musicians to teach and inspire young people, offering the most promising young musicians college level training by world-renowned jazz masters through its fellowship program in Jazz Performance at the UCLA Herb Alpert School of Music in Los Angeles, and presenting public school-based jazz education programs around the world. Helping to fill the tremendous void in arts education left by budget cuts in public school funding, the Institute's programs are provided free to the public and use jazz as the medium to encourage imaginative thinking, creativity, a positive self-image, and respect for one's own and others' cultural heritage. Jazz great **Herbie Hancock** serves as the Institute's chairman. [www.monkinstitute.org](http://www.monkinstitute.org).

## ABOUT THE NATIONAL PERFORMING ARTS HIGH SCHOOL JAZZ PROGRAM

The Institute's *National Performing Arts High School Program* has been designed to facilitate the education of gifted music students who attend public performing arts high schools across the nation. The Program offers them the opportunity to participate in a pre-conservatory, highly specialized, performance-based jazz curriculum; study with some of the world's most eminent jazz artists and educators; perform in a jazz combo 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; and arranges high-profile performance opportunities for the student ensembles.

## ABOUT THE PEER-TO-PEER JAZZ EDUCATION INITIATIVE

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

## ABOUT THE BOOKER T. WASHINGTON HIGH SCHOOL FOR THE PERFORMING AND VISUAL ARTS

Located in the heart of Dallas' Arts District, the Booker T. Washington High School for the Performing and Visual Arts is a tuition-free, fully accredited public high school that offers specialized instruction in dance, music, theatre, and visual arts, in addition to a rigorous academic curriculum. The school's students have received national recognition as U.S. Presidential Scholars in the Arts, winners of the YoungArts Competition, and recipients of numerous *DownBeat* Student Music Awards, among countless other honors, citations, and distinctions. The school is renowned for its jazz studies program, boasting such acclaimed alumni as Erykah Badu, Roy Hargrove, and Norah Jones. The school's principal is **Dr. Scott Rudes**; the Department of Music is under the direction of **Larry Schnitzer**; trumpeter **Bart Marantz** serves as Director of Jazz Studies. [www.dallasisd.org/btw](http://www.dallasisd.org/btw).

### Tucson/Phoenix 2015 Peer-to-Peer Jazz Informance and Concert Schedule

<u>Date</u>	<u>Event</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Location</u>
*Monday, April 13	Assembly Program Jazz Band and Vocal Workshops	12:35 PM 2:00 PM	<b>Tucson High Magnet School</b> , 400 N. 2nd Avenue Tucson, AZ 85705 (520-225-5000) Principal: Dr. Karyle Green
Tuesday, April 14	Assembly Program Jazz Band and Vocal Workshops	1:20 PM 2:45 PM	<b>Rincon/University High School</b> , 421 N. Arcadia Blvd. Tucson, AZ 85711 (520-232-5600 • 520-232-5900) Principals: Catherine Comstock and Dean Packard
Wednesday, April 15	Assembly Program Jazz Band and Vocal Workshops	12:45 PM 2:15 PM	<b>Betty Fairfax High School</b> , 8225 S. 59th Avenue Laveen, AZ, 85339 (602-764-9000) Principal: Dr. Schavon Waggoner
*Thursday, April 16	Assembly Program Jazz Band and Vocal Workshops	12:00 PM 1:30 PM	<b>North High School</b> , 1101 East Thomas Road Phoenix, AZ 85014 (602-764-6500) Principal: Juan Nunez
	Concerts Open to the Public	7:00 PM 9:00 PM	<b>The Nash</b> , 10 East Roosevelt Street Phoenix, AZ 85004 (602-795-0464) Executive Director: Joel Goldenthal
Friday, April 17	Assembly Program Jazz Band and Vocal Workshops	11:00 AM 12:30 PM	<b>South Mountain High School</b> , 5401 South 7th Street Phoenix, AZ 85040 (602-764-5000) Principal: LaCresha Williams

\* ATTENTION EDITORS: Media Day/VIP/Press Concerts:

#### Tucson:

Monday, April 13, 12:35 PM, **Tucson High Magnet School**, 400 N. 2nd Avenue, Tucson, AZ 85705 (520-225-5000)  
With special guest speakers: **Mayor Jonathan Rothschild**, City of Tucson; and **Dr. H.T. Sánchez**, Superintendent, Tucson Unified School District

#### Phoenix:

Thursday, April 16, 12:00 PM, **North High School**, 1101 East Thomas Road, Phoenix, AZ 85014 (602-764-6500)  
With special guest speakers: **Arts Learning Program Director Ashley Hare**, Phoenix Office of Arts and Culture; and **Dr. Kent Scribner**, Superintendent, Phoenix Union High School District

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@monkinstitute.org](mailto:jbdyas@monkinstitute.org) or 323-270-3904.