



## HERBIE HANCOCK INSTITUTE OF JAZZ

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HERBIE HANCOCK INSTITUTE BRINGS ALL-STAR HIGH SCHOOL JAZZ SEXTET TO OKLAHOMA PUBLIC SCHOOLS AS PART OF NATIONAL PEER-TO-PEER EDUCATION INITIATIVE, FEB. 25 - MAR. 1 FEATURING INTERNATIONALLY RENOWNED RECORDING ARTISTS **STEVE WILSON** AND **LISA HENRY**

WEEKLONG SERIES OF EVENTS INCLUDES A PERFORMANCE  
OPEN TO THE PUBLIC AT THE **UCO JAZZ LAB** ON MARCH 1

Washington, DC – With lead funding from the National Endowment for the Arts, the Herbie Hancock Institute of Jazz will bring its “Peer-to-Peer” jazz education program to Tulsa and Oklahoma City public schools February 25 - March 1. Combining performance with educational information, these “informances” will be presented by six of the country’s most gifted high school music students along with internationally acclaimed saxophone recording artist **Steve Wilson**, 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 musical performances 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 Oklahoma 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**, Chairman of the Institute, 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 Oklahoma 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 often more likely to listen.

The members of the all-star sextet selected nationwide to participate in the Oklahoma tour include trumpeter **Stéphane Clément**, 18, from Miami; trombonist **Adan Montes**, 17, and pianist **Dalton Hayse**, 18, from Los Angeles; guitarist **Manny Michael**, 17, from Sioux Falls; bassist **Bakari Williams**, 18, from Dallas; and drummer **Nino Aiyer**, 17, from Houston. “We’ve really enjoyed working on Mr. Wilson’s compositions the past couple of months,” said Clément, who recently performed at the Kennedy Center in Washington, DC along with Hancock and other jazz greats. “His music covers the full gamut, from swing to contemporary.”

Immediately following the informances, Wilson, Henry, and Dyas will conduct jazz workshops for each host school’s jazz band and choir in which the visiting students will play side-by-side with their Tulsa and Oklahoma City 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 culture.

“I’m really looking forward to talking and playing jazz with the Oklahoma students,” added Hayse. “So many great jazz players have come from that part of the country.” Indeed, such jazz icons as Chet Baker, Charlie Christian, Barney Kessel, Howard McGhee, Jay McShann, Oscar Pettiford, and Jimmy Rushing hail from the Sooner State.

The weeklong tour will conclude with two performances open to the public on **March 1st** at Oklahoma City’s premier jazz venue, **the UCO Jazz Lab** (at the University of Central Oklahoma School of Music, 100 E. 5th St. in Edmond), where Oklahoma residents and visitors are invited to enjoy an evening of music with Wilson and Henry alongside jazz’s future “young lions.” The octet will perform standards, jazz classics, and contemporary jazz, including compositions from Wilson’s and Henry’s latest recordings. The shows begin at 8:00 pm and 9:45 pm. For further information call 405-974-2100 or visit <http://www.ucojazzlab.com>.

## ABOUT THE ARTISTS & EDUCATORS



**Steve Wilson** is one of the top jazz saxophonists and composers on the scene today. Born and raised in Hampton, Virginia, Wilson studied formally at Virginia Commonwealth University before moving to New York in 1987. He has since gone on to appear on more than 150 albums and perform around the globe with such eminent jazz artists as Karrin Allyson, Michael Brecker, Ron Carter, Billy Childs, Chick Corea, George Duke, Joe Henderson, Dave Holland, Christian McBride, Lewis Nash, Dianne Reeves, Renee Rosnes, and Maria Schneider. He has eight recordings as a leader and is regularly cited in *DownBeat* Magazine's annual Critics and Readers' Polls in the soprano and alto saxophone categories. Besides being an internationally acclaimed performer and composer, Wilson is a dedicated jazz educator who enjoys working with up-and-coming young artists. He currently serves as Associate Professor of Music at City College of New York, is on the faculty of the Juilliard School, and presents jazz workshops at high schools, universities, and jazz festivals worldwide. His latest recording, *Steve Wilson & Wilsonian's Grain Live In New York: The Vanguard Sessions*, has been lauded by jazz fans and critics alike. [www.stevewilsonmusic.com](http://www.stevewilsonmusic.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 1994 Thelonious Monk Institute of Jazz International 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 20 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, Kevin Mahogany, Delfeayo Marsalis, Lou Rawls, Wayne Shorter, Terell Stafford, Dayna Stephens, Clark Terry and Bobby Watson. Her *Live from 18th and Vine* recording has received critical acclaim. [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 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 *DownBeat* magazine and other 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. His *How to Teach Jazz to High School and College Students* video series is available free of charge at [www.artistshousemusic.org](http://www.artistshousemusic.org).

## 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 January 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 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 combos 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*, which receives lead funding from the National Endowment for the Arts, 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 jazz, America's indigenous musical art form. 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.

### National Peer-to-Peer Jazz Sextet



Back row from left: **Bakari Williams**, 18 • **Stéphane Clément**, 18 • **Nino Aiyer**, 17  
Front row from left: **Adan Montes**, 18 • **Dalton Hayse**, 18 • **Manny Michael**, 17

## Tulsa and Oklahoma City Peer-to-Peer Jazz Informance, Concert, and Workshop Schedule

<u>Date</u>	<u>Event</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Location</u>
* Monday, February 25	Assembly Program/Concert Jazz Band and Vocal Workshops	9:45 am 11:25 am	<b>Edison Preparatory School</b> 2906 E. 41st Street, Tulsa, OK 74105 918-746-8500 • Clay Vinyard, Principal
Tuesday, February 26	Assembly Program/Concert Jazz Band and Vocal Workshops	9:30 am 11:30 am	<b>McLain High School</b> 4929 N. Peoria Avenue, Tulsa, OK 74126 918-833-8500 • John Williams, Principal
Wednesday, February 27	Jazz Band and Vocal Workshops Assembly Program/Concert	11:05 am 1:00 pm	<b>Grant High School</b> 5016 S. Pennsylvania Ave., Oklahoma City, OK 73119 405-587-2200 • Greg Frederick, Principal
Thursday, February 28	Assembly Program/Concert Jazz Band and Vocal Workshops	10:00 am 11:25 am	<b>Southeast High School</b> 5401 S. Shields Boulevard, Oklahoma City, OK 73129 405-587-9600 • Mylissa Hall, Principal
* * Friday, March 1	Assembly Program/Concert Jazz Band and Vocal Workshops	10:00 am 11:25 am	<b>Northwest Classen High School</b> 2801 NW 27th Street, Oklahoma City, OK 73107 405-587-6300 • Jahree Herzer, Principal
	Jazz Workshop Open to the Public	3:15 pm	<b>UCO Jazz Lab</b> 100 E 5th St, Edmond, OK 73034 405-974-5285 • Brian Gorrell, Director of Jazz Studies
	Concerts Open to the Public	8:00 pm 9:45 pm	<b>UCO Jazz Lab</b> 100 E 5th St, Edmond, OK 73034 405-974-2100 • Clint Rohr, Jazz Lab Director

EDITORS:

### \* Media Day/VIP Concert for Tulsa

Monday, February 25 • 9:45 am – Edison Preparatory School, 2906 E. 41st Street, Tulsa, OK 74105 (918-746-8500)  
Special Guests: **Tulsa Deputy Mayor Amy Brown, Senator James Lankford's Field Office Director Derek Osborn, and Congressman Kevin Hern's District Director Robert Aery**

### \* \* Media Day/VIP Concert for Oklahoma City

Friday, March 1 • 10:00 am – Northwest Classen High School, 2801 NW 27th Street, Oklahoma City, OK 73107 (405-587-6300)  
Special Guests: **Congresswoman Kendra Horn, Mayor David Holt, and Oklahoma State Superintendent of Education Joy Hofmeister**

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