



HERBIE HANCOCK INSTITUTE OF JAZZ

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
March 31, 2022

Contact: JB Dyas
jbdyas@hancockinstitute.org
323.270.3904 (cell); 310.206.9501 (office)

HERBIE HANCOCK INSTITUTE IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
PRESENT NATIONAL PEER-TO-PEER JAZZ INFORMANCE • APRIL 19, 2022

HOSTED BY U.S. SECRETARY OF EDUCATION **DR. MIGUEL CARDONA**

FEATURING 14-TIME GRAMMY-WINNING JAZZ LEGEND **HERBIE HANCOCK** AND
INTERNATIONALLY RENOWNED JAZZ TRUMPET RECORDING ARTIST **SEAN JONES**

IN CONCERT WITH THE **PEER-TO-PEER JAZZ QUINTET**

Washington, DC – The Herbie Hancock Institute of Jazz in conjunction with the U.S. Department of Education will present a peer-to-peer jazz informance on April 19, featuring the *Peer-to-Peer Jazz Quintet*. Hosted by U.S. Secretary of Education **Dr. Miguel Cardona**, the “informance” – a combination of performance and educational information – will be presented by five of the Baltimore/Washington, DC area’s most gifted high school music students along with 14-time GRAMMY Award-winning jazz legend **Herbie Hancock**, internationally acclaimed jazz trumpet recording artist **Sean Jones**, and renowned jazz educator **Dr. JB Dyas**. The informance will be [livestreamed](#) from the U.S. Department of Education (ED) headquarters building in Washington, D.C., beginning at 1 pm EDT, to hundreds of school districts in the United States and around the world, and streamed on ED’s [YouTube](#), [Facebook](#), and [Twitter](#) accounts, as well as the Institute’s website, [hancockinstitute.org](#). It will not only focus on what jazz is and why it’s important to America, but also on leadership in the time of a crisis such as a pandemic and how the principles of jazz – collaborating, improvising, not seeking perfection, playing off each other’s strengths, perseverance and the vital importance of really listening to one another – can enlighten leaders as they navigate through a crisis, uncertainty and challenging times.

“We’ve found that young people often learn about certain things better from kids their same age, and one of those is jazz,” said 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 to their like-age audience across the country and around the world about the importance of finding a passion for something early in life, working hard at it, 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 Quintet include alto saxophonists **Ebban Dorsey** and **Quinn Rehkemper** from the Baltimore School for the Arts (BSA); tenor saxophonist **Elijah Woodward** and pianist **Jose Andre Montano** from the Duke Ellington School of the Arts; and drummer **Jillian Upshaw** from Woodrow Wilson High School. “What an honor to have the opportunity to perform with Mr. Hancock and Mr. Jones,” said Dorsey, who was featured on last year’s ED jazz informance which was presented virtually due to the pandemic (and has now had over a half million views on YouTube). “Mr. Hancock’s immense musical contributions have truly been profound, and Mr. Jones is one of the best jazz trumpet players you’ll ever hear!”

Rounding out the group will be BSA’s director of jazz studies, **Ed Hrybyk** on bass, with a special cameo appearance by **Secretary Cardona** on Latin percussion. “Music is a big part of my family’s life,” said the Secretary. “There’s a level of listening, interdependence and collaboration that goes on in jazz that we can all learn from.”

While the informance at the US Department of Education can only accommodate a limited, invited audience of selected students, teachers, principals, and ED officials, it will be streamed nationally and internationally so all may partake. “Jazz mirrors life ... in improvisation and in connecting with people around you,” added the Secretary. “Music and the arts give us a window into different cultures – and cultures are an expression of many kinds of music. It’s been said that music is the art that goes from the ears straight to the heart. As we continue to recover from the pandemic, music is also a wonderful tool for empathy and healing.”

The Herbie Hancock Institute’s National Peer-to-Peer Education Program has lead funding from the National Endowment of the Arts and United Airlines.

ABOUT THE ARTISTS & EDUCATORS



Herbie Hancock is a true icon of modern music. Throughout his explorations, he has transcended limitations and genres while maintaining his unmistakable voice. With an illustrious career spanning six decades and 14 GRAMMY Awards, including Album of the Year for *River: The Joni Letters*, he continues to amaze audiences across the globe. Born and raised in Chicago, Hancock began playing piano at age 7. At age 20, he recorded his Blue Note Records debut album, *Takin' Off*, which included "Watermelon Man," the first of many Top 10 hits. As a member of the Miles Davis Quintet in the 1960s, Hancock became one of the pioneers of modern jazz improvisation. His recordings during the 1970s combined electric jazz with funk and rock sounds in an innovative style that influenced jazz, pop, and R&B music for decades to come. In 1983, "Rockit," from his platinum-selling *Future Shock* album, won Hancock a GRAMMY for Best R&B Instrumental. He received an Oscar in 1987 for Best Score, honoring his work on *Round Midnight*. Hancock was named an NEA Jazz Master in 2004, and received a Kennedy Center Honor in 2013. His critically acclaimed autobiography, "Possibilities," was published in 2014. Hancock serves as Chairman of the Herbie Hancock Institute of Jazz and Goodwill Ambassador for the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO). He was instrumental in establishing International Jazz Day, annually celebrated in UNESCO's 193 member states on April 30. www.herbiehancock.com



Miguel A. Cardona is the 12th U.S. Secretary of Education. Secretary Cardona has dedicated his career to serving students, educators, and families as an elementary school teacher, school principal, district administrator, and, most recently, as commissioner of education for the state of Connecticut. Secretary Cardona's focus on equity and excellence for all learners has driven his work at all levels of the education sector. Secretary Cardona has led the federal government's effort to support states in reopening America's public schools for in-person learning amid the recovery from the pandemic, moving from only 46 percent of schools open when President Biden took office to nearly 100 percent of schools open today. Under Secretary Cardona's leadership, the U.S. Department of Education also has distributed historic funding through the American Rescue Plan to support K-12 schools and colleges and has granted more than \$13 billion in student loan forgiveness. Secretary Cardona earned a bachelor's degree at Central Connecticut State University as well as a master's degree and doctorate degree from the University of Connecticut. Secretary Cardona and his wife Marissa are the proud parents of two children who attend public school.



Sean Jones is one of the top jazz trumpeters and composers on the scene today. He appears on more than 50 albums and has performed all over the world with such eminent jazz artists as Tia Fuller, Herbie Hancock, the Jazz at Lincoln Center Orchestra, Joe Lovano, Marcus Miller, Dianne Reeves, SFJazz, Wayne Shorter, Nancy Wilson, and Miguel Zenon. He has eight recordings as a leader and is regularly cited in *DownBeat* and *JazzTimes* magazines' annual Critics and Readers' Polls as one of the best trumpet players of his generation. Besides being an internationally acclaimed performer and composer, Jones is a dedicated jazz educator who enjoys working with up-and-coming young artists. Former Chair of the Brass Department at the Berklee College of Music, Jones currently serves as Chair of Jazz Studies at the world renowned Peabody Conservatory of Music. He also serves as Artistic Director for Carnegie Hall's National Youth Jazz Orchestra and presents jazz workshops around the globe. His latest recording, *Live from Jazz at the Bistro* (Mack Avenue Records), has been lauded by jazz fans and critics alike. www.sean-jones.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), 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 has made 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. www.jbdyas.com.

ABOUT THE UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

The United States Department of Education is a Cabinet-level department of the United States government. It began operating on May 4, 1980, having been created after the Department of Health, Education, and Welfare was split into the Department of Education and the Department of Health and Human Services by the Department of Education Organization Act, which President Jimmy Carter signed into law in 1979. With a mission to promote student achievement and preparation for global competitiveness by fostering educational excellence and ensuring equal access, the primary functions of the U.S. Department of Education are to establish policy for, administer and coordinate most federal assistance to education; collect data on U.S. schools; and enforce federal educational laws regarding privacy and civil rights. The Department is led by the United States Secretary of Education, Dr. Miguel Cardona.

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.

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, 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 the vital importance of really listening to one another.

ABOUT JAZZ APPRECIATION MONTH

Jazz Appreciation Month (JAM) was created by the Smithsonian Institution's National Museum of American History in 2002 to herald the extraordinary heritage and history of jazz for the entire month of April. JAM is intended to stimulate and encourage people of all ages to participate in jazz – to study the music, attend concerts, listen to jazz on radio and recordings, read books about jazz, and more. The month-long jazz celebration culminates with International Jazz Day on April 30th.

ABOUT INTERNATIONAL JAZZ DAY

In November 2011, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) officially designated April 30th as International Jazz Day in order to highlight jazz and its diplomatic role of uniting people in all corners of the globe. Every year, people all over the world join forces on April 30th to celebrate jazz as a universal tool for promoting peace, dialogue among cultures, diversity, and respect for human dignity; eradicating discrimination; fostering gender equality; and promoting individual expression. Recognized on the official calendars of both the United Nations and UNESCO, International Jazz Day has become a global movement, annually reaching more than two billion people in over 190 countries on all seven continents through education programs, performances, community outreach and media coverage. International Jazz Day is chaired and led by UNESCO Director General **Audrey Azoulay** and legendary jazz pianist and composer **Herbie Hancock**, who serves as a UNESCO Goodwill Ambassador and Chairman of the Herbie Hancock Institute of Jazz. April 30, 2022 will mark International Jazz Day's 11th Anniversary, celebrated with hundreds of concerts, jazz workshops, masterclasses, lectures, listening parties, and jam sessions around the world. www.jazzday.com.