



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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HERBIE HANCOCK INSTITUTE BRINGS ALL-STAR HIGH SCHOOL JAZZ SEXTET TO VIRGINIA
PUBLIC SCHOOLS AS PART OF NATIONAL PEER-TO-PEER EDUCATION INITIATIVE, MAY 22-26
FEATURING INTERNATIONALLY RENOWNED RECORDING ARTISTS **SEAN JONES** AND **LISA HENRY**

WEEKLONG SERIES OF EVENTS INCLUDES TWO PERFORMANCES OPEN TO THE PUBLIC
AT **BLUES ALLEY** IN WASHINGTON, DC ON MAY 27

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 Virginia public schools May 22-26, 2023. Combining performance with educational information, these “informances” will be presented by the Institute’s National Peer-to-Peer Jazz Sextet, comprising six of the country’s most gifted high school music students. They will be featured alongside internationally acclaimed trumpet recording artist **Sean Jones**, 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 Virginia 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 Virginia 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 sextet selected nationwide to participate in the Virginia tour include saxophonist **Leo Milano** (18) from Chicago; trombonist **Evan Dexter** (17) from Los Angeles; guitarist **Leo Sandoval** (17) from Houston; bassist **Camara Dupree** (17) from New Orleans; and pianist **Jose Andre Montano** (17) and drummer **Kevin Kearney** (17) from Washington, DC. “I had the wonderful opportunity of performing with Mr. Jones along with US Secretary of Education Miguel Cardona last year at the US Department of Education,” said Montano, who also was selected to this year’s Carnegie Hall’s National Youth Jazz Orchestra with which he’ll tour Europe this summer with Jones. “I can’t wait to play with and learn from him again.”

Immediately following the informances, Jones, 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 Virginia 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 Virginia,” added Dupree. “I can talk about the historic city of New Orleans, and the Virginia kids can tell me all about the historic cities of Williamsburg, Richmond, and Charlottesville.”

The weeklong tour will include two shows open to the public on May 27 at the iconic Washington, DC jazz club, **Blues Alley** (1073 Wisconsin Ave NW), where DC residents and visitors are invited to enjoy an evening of music with Jones and Henry alongside jazz’s future “young lions.” The octet will perform standards, jazz classics and contemporary jazz, including tunes from Jones’ and Henry’s latest recordings. Shows begin at 7:00 pm and 9:00 pm. For further information, call 202-337-4141 or visit <https://www.bluesalley.com>.

ABOUT THE ARTISTS & EDUCATORS



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 Robin Eubanks, Tia Fuller, Herbie Hancock, the Jazz at Lincoln Center Orchestra, Joe Lovano, Marcus Miller, Dianne Reeves, David Sánchez, SFJAZZ Collective, Wayne Shorter, Warren Wolf, 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 and President of the Jazz Education Network (JEN), Jones currently serves as Chair of Jazz Studies at the world-renowned Peabody Conservatory of Music and Artistic Director of Carnegie Hall's National Youth Jazz Orchestra. His latest recording, *Live from Jazz at the Bistro* (Mack Avenue Records), has received critical acclaim. www.sean-jones.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



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 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.

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.

Virginia Peer-to-Peer Jazz Informance, Concert, and Workshop Schedule

<u>Date</u>	<u>Event</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Location</u>
* Monday, May 22	Assembly Program/Concert Jazz Band and Vocal Workshops	9:10 am 11:00 am	Jamestown High School 3751 John Tyler Hwy, Williamsburg, VA 23185 757-259-3600 • Howard Townsend, Principal
Tuesday, May 23	Assembly Program/Concert Jazz Band and Vocal Workshops	9:10 am 11:00 am	Warhill High School 4615 Opportunity Way, Williamsburg, VA 23188 757-565-4615 • Michele Newcomb, Principal
Wednesday, May 24	Assembly Program/Concert Jazz Band and Vocal Workshops	10:45 am 12:45 pm	Thomas Jefferson High School 4100 W Grace St, Richmond, VA 23230 804-780-6028 • Cherita Sears, Principal
* Thursday, May 25	Assembly Program/Concert Jazz Band and Vocal Workshops	10:45 am 12:45 pm	Huguenot High School 7945 Forest Hill Ave, Richmond, VA 23225 804-320-7967 • Robert Gilstrap, Principal
* Friday, May 26	Assembly Program/Concert Jazz Band and Vocal Workshops	9:30 am 11:00 am	Charlottesville High School 1400 Melbourne Rd, Charlottesville, VA 22901 434-245-2410 • Rashaad Pitt, Principal
Saturday, May 27	Concerts Open to the Public	7:00 pm 9:00 pm	Blues Alley Jazz Club 1073 Wisconsin Ave NW, Washington, DC 20007 202-337-4141 • Harry Schnipper, Proprietor

EDITORS:

* Media Day/VIP Concerts

- Williamsburg – Monday, May 22 • 9:10 am – Jamestown High School, 3751 John Tyler Hwy, Williamsburg, VA 23185
- Richmond – Thursday, May 25 • 10:45 am – Huguenot High School, 7945 Forest Hill Ave, Richmond, VA 23225
- Charlottesville – Friday, May 26 • 9:30 am – Charlottesville High School, 1400 Melbourne Rd, Charlottesville, VA 22901

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 or 323-270-3904.

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