



HERBIE HANCOCK INSTITUTE OF JAZZ

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PORTLAND PUBLIC SCHOOLS ONE OF FIVE SCHOOL DISTRICTS NATIONWIDE SELECTED
TO BE PROVIDED NATIONAL PEER-TO-PEER JAZZ EDUCATION PROGRAM, MAY 20-25
FEATURING INTERNATIONALLY RENOWNED RECORDING ARTISTS **SEAN JONES** AND **LISA HENRY**

WEEKLONG SERIES OF EVENTS INCLUDES TWO PERFORMANCES
OPEN TO THE PUBLIC AT **BLUE** IN PORTLAND, MAINE ON MAY 25

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 Vermont, New Hampshire, and Maine public schools May 20-25. Combining performance with educational information, these “informances” will be presented by five of the country’s most gifted high school music students along with 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 New England counterparts.

“We’ve found that young people often learn about certain things better from kids their same age, and one of those 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 New England 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 quintet selected nationwide to participate in the New England tour include alto saxophonist **Jalin Shiver** from Newark; tenor saxophonist **Sasha Ripley** and pianist **Tyler Henderson** from Houston; bassist **Dario Bizio** from Los Angeles; and drummer **Jeremiah Collier** from Chicago. “It has been both a joy and a real challenge working on Mr. Jones’ compositions the past couple of months,” said Henderson, who recently performed at the Kennedy Center in Washington, DC along with Hancock and other jazz greats. “He’s definitely one of today’s top modern jazz artists, but always with reverence to the swing and bebop traditions.”

Immediately following the informances, Jones, 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 Vermont, New Hampshire, and Maine 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 cultures.

“I’m really looking forward to talking to and playing jazz with the students on the other side of the country,” added Bizio, who also recently performed at the Kennedy Center. “Whether it’s East Coast or West Coast, jazz is jazz.”

The weeklong tour will conclude with two performances open to the public on **May 25** at Portland’s premier jazz club, **Blue** (650A Congress St.), where Portland residents and visitors are invited to enjoy an evening of music with Jones and Henry alongside jazz’s future “young lions.” The septet will perform standards, jazz classics, and contemporary jazz, including compositions from Jones’ and Henry’s latest recordings. The shows begin at 6:00 pm and 8:00 pm. For further information call 207-774-4111 or visit <https://portcityblue.com>.

ABOUT THE ARTISTS & EDUCATORS



Sean Jones is one of the top jazz trumpeters and composers on the scene today. Born and raised in Warren, Ohio, Jones studied formally at Youngstown State and Rutgers University, where he earned his bachelor's and master's degrees, respectively. He has gone on to appear on more than 50 albums and perform around the globe with such eminent jazz artists as Frank Foster, Tia Fuller, Herbie Hancock, Jimmy Heath, Illinois Jacquet, the Jazz at Lincoln Center Orchestra, Joe Lovano, Dianne Reeves, the SFJazz Collective, Wayne Shorter, Gerald Wilson, 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. Formerly the Chairman of the Brass Department at the Berklee College of Music in Boston, Jones was recently named the Richard and Elizabeth Case Chair of Jazz at Johns Hopkins University's Peabody Institute in Baltimore. He also serves as Artistic Director for Carnegie Hall's National Youth Jazz Orchestra and presents jazz workshops worldwide. 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



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, Terrell Stafford, Bobby Watson, and Steve Wilson. Her *Live from 18th and Vine* recording has received critical acclaim. 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 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.

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.

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.

New England Peer-to-Peer Jazz Informance, Concert, and Workshop Schedule

<u>Date</u>	<u>Event</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Location</u>
* Monday, May 20	Assembly Program/Concert Jazz Band and Vocal Workshops	9:30 am 11:00 am	Burlington High School 52 Institute Road, Burlington, VT 05408 802-864-8411 • Noel Green, Principal
** Tuesday, May 21	Assembly Program/Concert Jazz Band and Vocal Workshops	10:00 am 11:30 am	Central High School 207 Lowell Street, Manchester, NH 03104 603-624-6363 • John Vaccarezza, Principal
Wednesday, May 22	Assembly Program/Concert Jazz Band and Vocal Workshops	10:00 am 11:30 am	Manchester Memorial High School 1 Crusader Way, Manchester, NH 03103 603-624-6378 • Arthur Adamakos, Principal
*** Thursday, May 23	Assembly Program/Concert Jazz Band and Vocal Workshops	10:45 am 12:15 pm	Portland High School 284 Cumberland Avenue, Portland, ME 04101 207-874-8250 • Sheila Jepson, Principal
Friday, May 24	Assembly Program/Concert Jazz Band and Vocal Workshops	10:45 am 12:25 pm	Deering High School 370 Stevens Avenue, Portland, ME 04103 207-874-8260 • Gregg Palmer, Principal
Saturday, May 25	Concerts Open to the Public	6:00 pm 8:00 pm	Blue 650A Congress Street, Portland, ME 04101 207-774-4111 • Lydia Jane Brown, Manager

EDITORS:

* **Media Day/VIP Concert for Vermont**

Monday, May 20 • 9:30 am – Burlington High School, 52 Institute Road, Burlington, VT 05408 (802-864-8411)

Special Guests: David Zuckerman, Lieutenant Governor, State of Vermont; Daniel French, Secretary of Education, State of Vermont; Rebecca Ellis, State Director, Office of Congressman Peter Welch

** **Media Day/VIP Concert for New Hampshire**

Tuesday, May 21 • 10:00 am – Central High School, 207 Lowell Street, Manchester, NH 03104 (603-624-6363)

Special Guests: Joyce Craig, Mayor, City of Manchester; Frank Edelblut, Commissioner, New Hampshire Department of Education; Jon Jarvis, New Hampshire Director of Operations for Senator Jeanne Shaheen; Christopher Collins, Director of Administration, Office of New Hampshire Governor Christopher Sununu; Kerry Holmes, Office of Senator Maggie Hassan; Ashley Motta, Office of Congressman Chris Pappas

*** **Media Day/VIP Concert for Maine**

Thursday, May 23 • 10:45 am – Portland High School, 284 Cumberland Avenue, Portland, ME 04101 (207-874-8250)

Special Guests: Kate Simson, State Representative for Senator Susan Collins; Daniel Chuhta, Deputy Commissioner, Maine Department of Education

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 or 323-270-3904.

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