



## The Official Newsletter of Jazz House Kids

Issue #5

June/July 2010

A heartfelt thank you!

June culminates an extraordinary 2009/2010 school year of programming and progress for Jazz House Kids. "Giant Steps" and "Milestones," compositions by venerable jazz pioneers John Coltrane and Miles Davis, sum up our sentiments here at the Jazz House. It's been a year of exciting in-school programs, community events, after-school workshops, adult weekend warrior ensemble sessions, professional development for teachers, a centennial birthday celebration for Mary Lou Williams, fantastic student concerts and, did I mention, a new space in the heart of Montclair? To cap off the year, we threw a knock-out finale event on June 3rd with Esperanza Spalding and our host, Christian McBride. The swing continues this August when we launch an exciting two-week summer jazz camp for students ages 9 to 18.



Melissa conducting an assembly at the John F. Kennedy School in Newark

At the Jazz House, we believe all children deserve access to a great education in the arts, and without generous support from individual donors, event sponsors, jazz clubs, professional jazz musicians, our instructors, volunteers, and staff, our mission simply would not be possible. As we close the school year, I want to personally thank each and every one of you for being such tremendous friends to Jazz House Kids and ambassadors for jazz. The results from our year are a true testament to what can happen when we come together as a community to provide quality arts programming, excellent tutelage and unyielding encouragement.

I look forward to keeping you apprised our activities. Hope to see you soon and have a fantastic summer!

Warm regards,

Founder and Executive Director

## Calendar of Events

### June 19: Student Performance

JHK students will perform at Staycation Montclair's FREE town-wide potluck picnic and benefit concert at the MHS Amphitheater. The event runs from 12:00 - 4:00pm.

### July 12: Volunteering Meeting

Want to help Jazz House Kids? Become a volunteer! Join us at 7:00 pm at the Jazz House (14 South Park Street in Montclair) and become a part of what's happening!

### August 9-21: Summer Camp

Jazz House Kids kicks off its first-ever summer camp in Montclair, NJ. Two-week registration is \$700 before July 13, and \$800 after! Limited spots - reserve yours today!

### August 13: Adult Ensemble Performance

Come check out the Adult Ensemble as they open up for Oscar Perez Nuevo Comienzo at Trumpets.

### August 14-15: Adult Jazz Weekend

Inquire about our new adult instrumental jazz workshop weekend.

### August 16: Summer Camp Performance

Jazz House Kids at Dizzy's Club Coca-Cola. Sets at 7:30 and 9:30 pm.

### August 19-20: Jazz House Kids at Trumpets

Student ensembles perform at Trumpets Jazz Club in Montclair.

### August 21: Jazz House Kids Jazz Festival

Jazz House Kids Summer Jazz Festival at Nishuane Park, 12:00 - 5:00 pm. Supported in part by Montclair Recreation.

Call 973.744.2273 or visit us at [jazzhousekids.org](http://jazzhousekids.org) to learn more!

## McBride and Spalding Go "Inside the Jazz Note"



Christian McBride & Esperanza Spalding  
duet at "Jazz for Generations"

How do you follow **Pat Metheny** and **Chris Botti**, the guest artists at our first two "Jazz for Generations" and "Inside the Jazz Note" year-end events? How about bringing in one of jazz's hottest young talents for an inspiring masterclass for high school students from around New Jersey--and then having her completely blow away the audience at an intimate evening conversation-cum-concert with **Christian McBride** and the insanely tight **Camden Creative Arts High School Big Band**?



Camden Creative Arts High School Big Band  
with Esperanza Spalding and Christian McBride

That's how it went Thursday, June 3 at SOPAC, when bassist, vocalist, shooting star and armchair philosopher Esperanza Spalding--who David Letterman called "the coolest person we've ever had on the show"--joined us at SOPAC for a day (and night) of teaching, talking, and jamming. The day's events prompted four standing ovations, but don't take our word for it--read the accolades that came in the next day:

"As Esperanza's career continues to build, this will be a program so many people will remember."

"This has been a life altering experience for all of our students!"

"She was like a really good-looking Yoda."

"A huge, huge WOW is all that I have to say. An amazingly well put-together, inspiring evening!!! BRAVO!!!"

"I think my favorite moment was that question from the audience that prompted Esperanza to talk about the work that she puts in every day to make sure that she has the spiritual depth to draw on to consistently give an authentic performance to her audience. She was remarkable and the chemistry during the duets with Christian and her vocal with the big band was just electric."

"THANK YOU!!! for the Esperanza Spalding experience at SOPAC! THANK YOU!!!! for your partnership with RS Berkeley Instruments and the awarding of a brand new trombone to Oscar Mendez from Arts High School in Newark!"

"Jazz House Kids puts on an exceptional show each year without loosening site of its primary goal, the children."

We'll be posting video highlights on our website soon--keep an eye out.

**Jazz House Kids would like to thank the following for making Jazz for Generations such a magical event!**

Our event sponsors:

The National Endowment for the Arts

The New Jersey State Council on the Arts

PSE&G

Cool Wind Ventilation Corp.

Manhattan Mechanical Contractors, Inc.

Our adopt-a-school sponsors: Bobbi Brown, Tony LaRussa, John LeRoy, Keith Safian, Roseann & Alan Shaiman, Judy & Josh Weston, as well as the support from a anonymous donor.

The in-kind support from Whole Foods Market and WBG0.

Our award partner, RS Berkeley Instruments.

Our board, staff and volunteers, and all the attendees!

## Jazz House Kids Spring Concert



JazzCats Students perform at the  
Salvation Army Montclair Citadel  
for the JHK Spring Concert

Our students hit the ball out of the park! On Sunday, May 16, Jazz House ensembles performed at our first annual spring concert. Our youth division instrumental groups: JazzCats and Teen Town I and II performed along side two adult ensembles, and a choral collective--showed off what they've learned in both our in-school and after-school classes, and it was a lot! Thanks to the instructors (who played a phenomenal finale together), and also to the friends and family who gathered at the beautiful new Montclair Salvation Army Citadel.

You can't have a gig without an audience!

## Meet our Students of Distinction



**Left:** Adam Dykman-Rosenberg with Melissa Walker, Executive Director of JHK, and Les Silver of RS Berkeley Instruments  
**Right:** Oscar Mendez receives his trombone during the event



In addition to listening to great music and inspiring conversation on June 3, the audience at "Inside the Jazz Note" also saw how Jazz House Kids is insuring the future of great music when we gave out our **2nd Annual Student of Distinction Music Awards**. Each year the award is given to the young musicians who demonstrate leadership, musicianship, creativity and dedication to excellence. This year's awardees, saxophonist **Adam Dykman-Rosenberg** and trombonist **Oscar Mendez**, took home beautiful new instruments donated through our exciting partnership with **Les Silver of RS Berkeley Instruments**.

Adam is an 8th grade student at HB Whitehorne Middle School in Verona, NJ. After trying out several instruments, Adam fell hard for the saxophone, eventually prompting his teacher, Howard Freund, to remark that Adam is "without question one of our finest musicians and has a bright musical future ahead of him." The Berkeley horn is the first sax he's owned.

Oscar is a senior at Arts High School in Newark. He'll attend New Jersey City University next year as a music education major, with a goal "to study classical music, jazz music, teaching music, and whatever I can get my hands on." His teacher, Dennis Argul, said Oscar "is a section leader in every ensemble in which he takes part and is a model student for the Arts High School music department."

**Congratulations, Adam and Oscar. Enjoy your horns!**

## Our Mission

To enhance the quality of life for young people, their families, and teachers through the medium of jazz - America's greatest musical contribution - in order to cultivate tomorrow's responsible global citizens and community leaders.

Visit us today at 14 S. Park Street, 2nd Floor, within SMAPA, Montclair, NJ 07042

Or online at [www.jazzhousekids.org](http://www.jazzhousekids.org)

Phone: 973.744.2273

Fax: 973.744.2988

E-mail: [info@jazzhousekids.org](mailto:info@jazzhousekids.org)



## Countdown to Summer Jazz Camp



Christian McBride, Creative Director & Guest Artist

Tell your kids, tell their friends: Jazz House Kids' Summer Jazz Workshop is going to be amazing! Running from August 9 to 21 in Downtown Montclair, the full-day camp is under the creative direction of jazz luminary **Christian McBride**, camp director **Mike Lee**, and added support **Janet Lemansky** of JazzConnections. Musicians will learn everything from composition and improvisation to playing in both small group ensembles and big bands. Camp highlights include a stellar performance including an evening at **Dizzy's Club Coca-Cola** at Lincoln Center and, in partnership with Montclair's Department of Recreation, a final performance with students and professionals at the 1st **Jazz House Kids Jazz Festival** on Saturday, August 21. If your child loves to play, he or she shouldn't miss this very special summer opportunity.

### JHK's Summer Jazz Workshop

When: August 9 - 21, 9:00 am - 4:00 pm

Where: Montclair Salvation Army Citadel  
13 Trinity Place, Montclair

Ages: 9 to 18 (Various skill levels welcome)

Tuition: \$700; \$800 after July 1 *Limited scholarships available*

### Interested?

Visit [www.jazzhousekids.org](http://www.jazzhousekids.org) to download the summer camp brochure and register today!

### Our Sponsors



Prudential



Montclair



## Program Spotlight: Jazz Across the Curriculum in the Classroom



Jazz Across the Curriculum Participants at William Paterson University

In February, K-8 teachers from schools across the state gathered at William Paterson University for two days plus a series of afternoon professional development sessions in Jazz House Kids' "Jazz Across the Curriculum" program. There, they learned how to incorporate jazz into their teaching, no matter what the subject. Sessions included a host of topics from music techniques to boost language arts literacy, music therapy and classroom management, creating instruments out of found objects, boosting piano skills for teachers, theory in the classroom, the vocal choir, jazz in America, jazz and art, plus using technology and others. We checked in with some of the teachers to see how the program impacted their classrooms.

Dana Spagnuolo is a "roving" music teacher in Montclair who spends one day per week in each of the town's elementary schools. "It's almost impossible to teach them to read music in 40 minutes a week," she says. Jazz Across the Curriculum encouraged her to give playing by ear a try.

"Trying to read kind of halts them from what they can actually do," Dana continues. "With jazz, they learn a simple melody-today we were doing 'C Jam'-and pass it along, and the kids can produce more complicated, moving, funky rhythms. I kind of decided, 'If they can play it, I'm not going to worry that they can't read it, because that's more important right now.' It was definitely inspiring."

The other teachers we spoke with remarked:

"My brain is to the point of bursting! The program gave me time to start working out how to approach the next week and the remainder of the year." -Miki Hatcher/Newark

"Our job is to find creative ways to reach kids, I now have another tools to stay energized" -Michael Page/Newark

"I wasn't sure what to expect when I got here, but it was everything I needed!" -Steve Pittman/Newark

**Jazz Across the Curriculum is supported by grants from the Dana and Prudential Foundations.**

## Student Spotlight: The power of jazz, from a teen's point of view

Morris Hills High School senior **Divya Farias**, a long-time student of sister organization Jazz Connections and participant in JHK programs, is thriving anecdotal evidence of the power of music education. A saxophonist and violinist who's been playing jazz since 6th grade, Divya chose to write her college application essay about jazz and its impact on the way she thinks and interacts with other people. The essay helped Divya earn admission to a number of top colleges and music schools; she ultimately chose Princeton, where she plans to study ecology and evolutionary biology, with an eye on environmental science and activism.



Divya performs at Body & Soul Image Copyright Richard Conde

Through jazz, Divya says, "I've learned a lot about working with other people, and about listening. Also, jazz is spontaneous and open to people being individuals while still trying to work together. And when you're improvising, you have to think quickly on your feet. Those are things that I think have affected the way I can work in groups, on school projects and team activities."

Can a serious musician and aspiring scientist ultimately meld her two passions? "There are people who use their music for activism," she answers. "If I can think of a way to combine them, I definitely would go for it."

**Divya won an ASCAP Foundation Young Jazz Composers Award this year. Congratulations and good luck!**

### House Lights Staff:

**Susan Gifford**, Editor in Chief     **Suzanne Bellofatto**, Design  
**Melissa Walker**, Executive Director



Expressing, Creating, Building ~ One child at a time. <sup>SM</sup>

**14 South Park Street, 2nd Floor, Montclair, NJ 07042**  
**Phone: 973.744.2273     Website: [jazzhousekids.org](http://jazzhousekids.org)**