

JAZZ HOUSE KIDS[®]

HOUSE

WINTER '12 / ISSUE NO.13

LIGHTS

www.jazzhousekids.org

10 YEARS OF HITTING THE HIGH NOTES

It's official: Jazz House Kids is 10 years old! As one who is many moons past 10, I relish Jazz House Kids going into double digits and remember fondly what an exciting time that is in the life of a young person. It is equally exciting for an organization committed to encouraging young people to be life-long learners, communicators and innovators through jazz – America's revered musical art form that stands for freedom and democracy. Using the universal vocabulary of jazz, students break down barriers and build bridges that will serve them throughout life.

As we celebrate our big birthday, I look back with pride on an amazing decade. What started as a one-time workshop for WBGO became the foundation for doing great things. We're really proud of our in-school achievements, from providing the daily music programs in underserved schools, launching a jazz choir for special needs students, and putting instruments in the hands of kids who were sitting on the sidelines. We've been equally active outside the classroom, with the opening of our Jazz House music studio, the launch of robust year-round classes and an acclaimed Summer Jazz Workshop taught by our esteemed faculty, the creation of a scholarship fund that helps over thirty percent of our student body, and the establishment of an our award-winning big band and professional track emerging musicians. It is especially gratifying to see our graduates pursuing music at prestigious colleges and universities and to know that Jazz House Kids had a major impact on their young lives.

We hope you'll join us as we celebrate throughout 2012, rolling out exciting new events and enhancing existing programs. Please plan to join us on Wednesday, October 17 for our music-jammed 10th anniversary gala at the New Jersey Performing Arts Center with an all-star line up including

Christian McBride's Grammy-nominated Big Band, and students from our in-school and Jazz House performance ensembles. And keep your ears open for other extras, such as intimate "salons"; a Jazz Discovery Lecture Series highlighting jazz history and culture; and, capping off the school year, our 5th annual "Inside the Jazz Note."

Thank you for being part of our growing and thriving musical family. Together, we've covered a lot of ground and laid the foundation for the next decade.



Founder & Executive Director



The Jazz House is born! Jazz House Kids founder and vocalist Melissa Walker conducts our first program for WBGO's Kids Jazz Series.

BECOME A MEMBER TODAY!

Our spanking-new membership program is up and rolling, and we invite you to get on board. The membership program is a terrific new way for you to help us support the beneficial work we're doing while snagging a few perks for yourself, from class discounts and first dibs on event tickets to exclusive access to performances by some of the biggest names in jazz! Individual memberships start at just \$75.

Starting now, as we begin celebrating our 10th anniversary, you have a chance to become a Founding Member of Jazz House Kids! Your contribution will help us extend our reach into communities of need and provide important scholarship support for families studying at the Jazz House while bringing you added benefits.

For information about our new Membership and Founding Members program, please call 973-744-2273 or visit www.jazzhousekids.org.



Your membership helps build young musicians

DONATION CHALLENGE FOR THE GIVE AN(OTHER) INSTRUMENT FUND!!!

A key part of Jazz House Kids, mission is making sure that students who want to build a jazz house have the right tools for the job—high quality instruments! The "Give an Instrument, Build a Musician Fund" provides new loaner instruments to children who otherwise would not be participating in school band programs due to economic barriers. Jazz House Kids also gives these students access to mentoring by professional artists through in-school masterclasses that benefit the entire music program.

Last school year, 25 fifth-graders across three middle schools in Union County benefited from our "Give an Instrument, Build a Musician" program. This year, three additional middle schools are participating in the program. That means we are serving a new crop of fifth-graders and all of last year's students -- now-sixth-graders -- who are continuing to play music with those instruments.



Union County music students showing off their new instruments with teacher David Braham.

Union music teacher David Braham calls our program "perfect" for his district, which is economically mixed but with a growing number of needier students. Many of their parents, unable to rent, mistakenly buy cheap, inadequate instruments --or their children miss out on playing altogether. "I'm really glad to be working with Jazz House Kids," he continues. "It's been a great thing for the kids, and we've all enjoyed the masterclasses."



Our young musicians have an edge in the classroom: Better ears!

Jazz Works: Learning Music Helps Cut Through Clatter

We can't say it enough--learning music is about, (drum roll, please) more than just learning music! A Northwestern University neurobiologist agrees, writing recently that studying music strengthens your entire auditory system. That brain boost helps a child to distinguish sounds and meaning better, a skill that can enhance academic performance.

In a 2010 article in the journal Nature Reviews Neuroscience*, Nina Kraus, director of the Auditory Neuroscience Laboratory at Northwestern University's School of Communication, argues that cutting music programs from schools may backfire academically, because, well, classrooms can be noisy. "An effective music training program in schools," she writes, "could reduce the negative influences of external noise and better prepare a child for everyday listening challenges beyond the challenges that directly relate to music." Our loose translation: **Kids who study music have an easier time hearing their teachers, and processing what they say. We rest our case.** *©2010 Nature Reviews Neuroscience

Jazz House Kids is a community-based organization that provides year-round musical, educational and cultural programs to students K-12, teachers, adults and families from diverse backgrounds.

Internationally renowned jazz performers teach alongside our professional staff, offering students a wide range of creative programming that develops musical potential, enhances leadership skills, and strengthens academic performance.

The "Jazz House" provides the framework for students to cultivate the talent, discipline, skills and principles they need to play, sing, and appreciate America's original musical art form. Through music, mentoring and education, Jazz House Kids cultivates tomorrow's global citizens so they may build vibrant communities where they live.



Upcoming Events

Spring Semester Auditions Call Today To Sign Up!

Week of February 6th and 12th
Our spring semester begins the week of February 27th.

Body and Soul

Two Nights of Fine Wine,
Superb Cuisine & Classic Jazz

Thursday, February 23
Grand Tasting & Dinner at CulinAriane
Friday, February 24
The Main Event at Brassworks

Summer Workshop

August 6-18 **Register Today!**
Salvation Army Citadel
Montclair, NJ

Summer Workshop Placement & Big Band Auditions

Saturday, June 9th
Placement auditions for camp and our two yearlong big bands!

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www.jazzhousekids.org
or call 973-744-2273

GET CONNECTED WITH
JAZZ HOUSE KIDS—
BECOME OUR FAN ON
FACEBOOK

www.jazzhousekids.org

Donate today and your pledge will be matched dollar for dollar up to \$5000.
Call 973-744-2273 and your gift will do double-duty!

SPOTLIGHT ON: JHK STUDENT RAHSAAN PICKETT

It was a class in seventh grade that turned our student and intern Rahsaan Pickett on to music—but he sheepishly credits a video game for getting him into his real instrument, guitar.

Rahsaan, now a sophomore at Arts High School in Newark, began playing alto sax in middle school for Jazz House Kids instructor and Avon school music teacher, Thaddeus Expose. At home, though, he was secretly mastering the guitar licks on “Rock Band” the video game. “I told my mom I wanted a real guitar, so she got one for my birthday,” he says. “It was seriously harder than playing ‘Rock Band!’” He began with tablatures for funk songs and the tunes he’d played on the game, but at the end of seventh grade, started playing guitar with his school jazz band. “From there on, I was playing jazz and reading music,” he says. Soon after, he enrolled in Jazz House Kids’ programs.

Once in high school, though, his guitar education hit a bump: Arts High eliminated its guitar department and pressured Rahsaan to switch back to sax. His mother, Chelese King, would have none of it. She hired a lawyer, wrote letters, and “I put them into everyone’s hands but Governor Christie’s,” says Chelese, a hairstylist in Newark who attends all of her son’s performances. “I just didn’t want stagnation.” Eventually, the school relented.

Rahsaan’s rapid growth as a player has landed him lessons through Jazz House Kids’ Tommy LiPuma Scholarship Fund to study with the great Dave Stryker, whom Rahsaan lists along with George Benson, Wes Montgomery and Grant Green as one of his favorite guitarists. He’s also earned spots in our top Jazz House Big Band and Jazz Cats Small Ensemble, with stops along the way at NJPAC’s Jazz for Teens, Litchfield Jazz Camp and the Juilliard Jazz Summer Workshop at Snow College, another opportunity he received through his association with Jazz House Kids.

Radam Schwartz, who teaches the Jazz Cats ensemble, says, “He’s improved a great deal since I first met him, and personally, he’s a wonderful young man. He hears what you say, takes it to heart, and acts on it. His willingness to learn is a great strength.”

Rahsaan’s plan is to attend college and major in both performance and music business. Says mom Chelese, “All I do is keep the lights and the internet on and keep the peanut butter and jelly around, and he’s all right” (although she also admits to making sure he keeps his GPA up). “He’s mature,” she says. “He’s an old man. He knows what he wants and we’re grateful to JHK for helping us out!”



Family stylists: Jazz House guitar student, Rahsaan Pickett plays for his proud mom, Chelese King, in the Newark beauty salon where she works.

Register Now!

JAZZ HOUSE CLASSES

Spring 2012

Sign Up Now for our Spring 2012 Semester

The sixteen-week semester runs from February 27th through June 14, 2012. Space is limited

For more information on our adult and youth classes, visit our website at www.jazzhousekids.org or call 973.744.2273

SUMMER JAZZ WORKSHOP

August 6-18, 2012

Call to reserve your seat today!

-Limited Openings-

973.744.2273



Apply today!

\$50 registration deposit required to reserve a spot!

Feb 1-March 15

Early Bird Deadline: \$950

March 16-May 15

General Registration: \$1,100

May 15

Scholarship Registration Deadline

June 9

Summer Workshop Placement & Fall 2012 Big Band Auditions

Visit www.jazzhousekids.org for registration and scholarship forms or call us for more information at 973.744.2273.

Body and Soul

Two Nights of Fine Wine, Superb Cuisine & Classic Jazz

Thurs, February 23: Grand Tasting & Dinner

at CulinAriane, Montclair, NJ

Fri, February 24: The Main Event

at Brassworks, Montclair, NJ



BREAKING NEWS

Jazz House Kids Bands Make the Cut for Mingus Competition Again

For the second straight year, the Jazz House Big Band is a finalist in the Charles Mingus High School Competition, as is the Jazz Cats Small Ensemble. The groups, led by Julius Tolentino and Radam Schwartz respectively, won out over musicians from around the country. Only 12 bands were chosen and they will compete and perform in New York City from February 17 – 20.

Congratulations and good luck to our students and the talented professionals who teach them!



Our Jazz House Big Band preparing to “bring it” to Mingus again!

A Jazz House Kids Shout-Out to Rebecca Lee

Jazz House Kids friends and families have been generous in their gifts and get-well wishes to Rebecca Lee, an extraordinary violinist and wife of our Coordinator of Music Programming, Mike Lee, and mother to Julian, Mathew and Jacqueline Lee. Rebecca suffered multiple injuries after being struck by a car before the holidays, but is home and steadily improving. According to Mike, the cast is off her wrist and she’s starting to play again. We wish Rebecca, a member of our extended family, a speedy recovery!

The Lee family sends its sincerest thanks to everyone.



Happy to report, Rebecca Lee (center) is on the mend.

Body and Soul Goes Big!

Never one to get stuck in a groove, we’re changing up our annual wine-tasting fundraiser, “Body and Soul,” and making it even better!

This year, the Grand Tasting, an extravagant selection of rare wines plucked from the cellars of board member Jason DeSalvo and other generous collectors, gets its own night—Thursday, February 23. Join us at Montclair’s highly-rated restaurant CulinAriane, as we savor fine wine pairings served with a four-course dinner designed to compliment these special wines valued at over \$7,000. Attendance is limited to 30 people.

Body & Soul continues the following evening on Friday, February 24 at Brassworks for the Main Event. This swinging party boasts five jazz clubs, each with its own special menu of great food, exceptional wines from Amanti Vino, and a blend of live jazz featuring our many emerging artists studying at Jazz House Kids and professional artists.

Regular and patron tickets for both nights are available now at www.jazzhousekids.org, or by calling 973-744-2273.

We extend our thanks to host Jason DeSalvo, his wife Deborah, and members of our board for co-hosting this very special event for Jazz House Kids.

973.744.2273
www.jazzhousekids.org
14 South Park Street
Montclair, NJ 07042

A world-class music initiative...
In your own backyard



We are grateful for the support of our signature donors and the many individuals who make gifts, both large and small, in order to see our mission flourish. A special thank you to our volunteers who give so generously of their time and talent, and our wonderful staff and faculty for their commitment and passion.

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