

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: MARCH 25, 2009



FREE PERFORMANCES SATURDAY MAY 2, 2009 BY JAZZ AT LINCOLN CENTER'S MIDDLE SCHOOL JAZZ ACADEMY

For High Res photos: http://www.jalc.org/about/2009_galleries/msja/index.htm

Who/What:

Jazz at Lincoln Center showcases the MIDDLE SCHOOL JAZZ ACADEMY (MSJA) class of 2008-09, under direction of Eli Yamin, in a free concert featuring the repertoire of Duke Ellington, Tito Puente, Mary Lou Williams, Robert Johnson and Art Blakey. The performance highlights the achievements of the MSJA students during the current school year.

About MSJA:

Each year, Jazz at Lincoln Center selects 15 students from New York City, in the 6th, 7th or 8th grades to be a part of MSJA. Each student is awarded a full tuition scholarship, based on application, audition and family interview, to receive intensive jazz instruction throughout the school year.

Now in its fourth year, this unique program offers a course of study in instrumental performance, including Saturday Academy and weekly private lessons, as well as broader youth development activities. Students have the opportunity to learn from outstanding faculty and guest musicians including Wynton Marsalis, Artistic Director of Jazz at Lincoln Center; members of the Jazz at Lincoln Center Orchestra and among others.

For more information on the MSJA faculty, go to:

http://www.jalc.org/jazzED/ed_pdf/2009-01-07_MSJA_Faculty_Bios_2009.pdf

MIDDLE SCHOOL JAZZ ACADEMY CLASS OF 2008-09

Diamond Clinton, drums/percussion, Brooklyn
Aaron Colbert, flute, Bronx
Cole Davis, bass, Manhattan

Nicole Davis, trumpet, Manhattan
Lateef Fall, guitar, Manhattan
Nickarel Forbes-Allen, clarinet, Brooklyn
Luis Garcia, baritone saxophone, Manhattan
Justin Henry, drums/percussion, Brooklyn
Hakeem Leonce, trumpet, Brooklyn
Victor Rodriguez, alto saxophone, Queens
David Rukki, trombone, Brooklyn
Yasiel Sanchez, piano, Manhattan
Jumaane Sandiford, piano, Brooklyn
Khadim Sarr, tenor saxophone, Brooklyn
David Seville, bass, Brooklyn

Where:

Dizzy's Club *Coca-Cola*, Frederick P. Rose Hall, home of Jazz at Lincoln Center, on Broadway at 60th Street, New York City.

When:

Saturday May 2, 2009; 12:30 p.m. & 2:30 p.m.

How:

The performance is free and open to the public. No reservations, first come, first served. Seating is general admission.

Quotes:

"Jazz to me is a music and a feeling that everyone should experience. Jazz has changed my life completely. It has helped me make better decisions. Jazz has also helped me overall as a student and person. MSJA was one of the greatest experiences of my life and I wouldn't change it for the world! My memories from MSJA are like no other."

- *Gregory Hunter, MSJA Student*

"The program taught my son and my family that jazz is not only a music style... it's a lifestyle. It's the different way to see and live life... it's the way to interact with other people without discrimination... it's the way to demonstrate to the world that we are equal, no matter which color, religion, or where you come from, not even what you speak...just to bring your instrument and swing."

- *Stefanos DiFonis, MSJA Parent*

"Middle School Jazz Academy welcomes middle school musicians into the creative and soulful world of jazz. Students make friends with each other and legendary jazz musicians. Within months, everybody is playing the blues, improvising on tunes and swinging as one voice."

- *Eli Yamin, Director of MSJA*

Sponsorship:

The Middle School Jazz Academy is made possible with leadership support from the Altman Foundation and The William R. Kenan, Jr. Charitable Trust.

Additional support for the Middle School Jazz Academy is provided by Deutsche Bank, the Edward and Sally von Lier Fund of The New York Community Trust, Little Johnny Koerber and Judith and John LaRosa.

The 2008–2009 education season is supported by the Heckscher Foundation for Children and the Harold and Mimi Steinberg Charitable Trust.

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