

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: APRIL 8, 2010



FREE PERFORMANCES SATURDAY, MAY 1, 2010 BY JAZZ AT LINCOLN CENTER'S MIDDLE SCHOOL JAZZ ACADEMY

[For High Res photos](#)

Who/What:

Jazz at Lincoln Center showcases the MIDDLE SCHOOL JAZZ ACADEMY (MSJA) class of 2009-2010 in a free concert featuring the music of Billy Strayhorn, Tito Puente, Duke Ellington, Nat Adderly, Wes Montgomery, Big Jay McNeely, Grachan Moncur, and Blue Mitchell. 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 fifth 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 led by Head of Instruction Eli Yamin, guest musicians including Wynton Marsalis, Artistic Director of Jazz at Lincoln Center, members of the Jazz at Lincoln Center Orchestra, and others. The program also includes master classes, fieldtrips, and explorations of other art forms, including dance, theater, and visual art.

For more on MSJA, visit jalc.org/msja.

MIDDLE SCHOOL JAZZ ACADEMY CLASS OF 2009-10

Taariq Butler, trumpet, Brooklyn
Cole Davis, bass, Manhattan

Lateef Fall, guitar, Manhattan
Justin Henry, drums/percussion, Brooklyn
Hakeem Leonce, trumpet, Brooklyn
Addison Claire Manion, baritone saxophone, Queens
Terson Modeste, alto saxophone, Brooklyn
Christian Rojas, clarinet, Manhattan
Daniela Sandoval, flute, Brooklyn
Lakenia Green Sobers, flute, Brooklyn
Jonathan David Soto, drums/percussion, Brooklyn
Ashlee Smith, tenor saxophone, Brooklyn
Len Takeda, piano, Brooklyn
Tiera Thompson, trumpet, Brooklyn
Carlos Torres, Jr., bass, Bronx

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 1, 2010; 12:00pm & 1:30pm

How:

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

Quotes:

"More than a style of music, jazz can be a celebration, a tribute or a gathering when played. Jazz is the most unique style of music. Almost every instrument can be a jazz instrument. To me, jazz is an amazing style of music expressing emotion that everybody, every instrument, every skin color, every nationality can play."

- *Cole Davis, MSJA Student*

"Again this year, MSJA exceeded my expectations. My daughter has grown and matured a lot. She is more confident than ever before. She took a leadership role and was able to demonstrate her knowledge and help others".

- *Edita de la Rosa, 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, Head of Instruction, MSJA*

Sponsorship:

The Middle School Jazz Academy is made possible with leadership support from the Altman Foundation. Additional support is provided by Con Edison Community Partnership Fund, Deutsche Bank, The Heckscher Foundation for Children, Little Johnny Koerber, Judith and John LaRosa, and the Sunny and Abe Rosenberg Foundation.

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