

# the check-in.

## GOLDEN OPPORTUNITIES

In this Homecoming issue, we talk with Robert Glasper (Jazz '97) about what it means to have a home at HSPVA

## HOMECOMING WEEKEND

Are you pullin' up August 5th-7th for our celebration of HSPVA's 50th Anniversary? Look inside for more details

# inside.

## President

Denise Ward (Vocal '12)

## Vice President

Capra Fellows (Theatre '11)

## Secretary

Gabby Byrd (Vocal '11)

## Treasurer

Kierra Martin (Dance '13)

## Scholarship Co-Chairs

Taylor Lewis (Theatre '11)

Dabrina Sandifer (Theatre '06)

## Technology Coordinator

Henry Ellis Davis (Theatre '09)

## Engagement Co-Chairs

Edward Bell (Vocal '10)

Malcolm Jackson (Instrumental '10)

## Members

Christian Warner (Dance '12)

Aldarian Mayes (Instrumental '10)

Malcolm Jackson (Instrumental '10)

Edward Bell (Vocal '10)

Taylor Scott (Theatre '19)

Dedreck "DJ" Carr (Vocal '18)

Stephen Hudson (Vocal '03)

## This Edition's Contributing Writers

Gabby Byrd

Denise Ward

Capra Fellows



## ON THE COVER

Robert Glasper (Jazz '97).

Photo by Mancy Gant. Courtesy of PDX Jazz.



A NOTE FROM  
THE PRESIDENT



THE COMMONS



HAPPENINGS



CONVERSATION:  
GOLDEN  
OPPORTUNITIES



INTERLUDE




CALL BOARD





CLASS NOTES




WHO WE ARE

 @hspvablackalumninetwork

 @hspvablackalumninetwork

 hspvablackalumninetwork@gmail.com

 linktr.ee/hspvablackalumninetwork

**WRITE:** Share your thoughts on this issue and anything else PVA-related at [hspvablackalumninetwork@gmail.com](mailto:hspvablackalumninetwork@gmail.com)

# Friends,

In just a few days, HSPVA Alumni from all over the country will be coming to Houston to celebrate our beloved "happy place."

Black Alumni of the High School for the Performing and Visual Arts or "Black PVA," as it's commonly known, is a very special community. From the roaring laughter coming from that one table in The Commons, to those late-night Black History Show rehearsals, to those riveting Koffee House performances, and those post-grad link-up happy hours, to performing all over the world with your classmates, Black PVA is unique and it is sacred.

In Elaine Clift Gore's book, *"Talent Knows No Color,"* she explains that *"HSPVA was the first United States public school for the arts specifically used for racial desegregation purposes, the prototype for the first public urban magnet program of desegregation... and a continuing prototype for other public magnet schools for the arts across the United States."* It is evident that Black PVA is integral to the history of the HSPVA's Gold Standard.

Beyond our groundbreaking beginnings, our collective accomplishments since then have been legendary. From film, television, visual arts, music, culinary arts, dance, education, and more, our contributions are endless.

This upcoming August 5-7 weekend, we invite you to celebrate the richness and fullness of our collective experiences at Homecoming: Celebrating the Gold Standard. See you there!

WITH LOVE,

**Denise Ward**

PRESIDENT, HSPVA BLACK ALUMNI NETWORK



**a note  
from the  
president**

# the commons.



We're so excited to invite you all to our celebration of HSPVA's 50th Anniversary! This Homecoming weekend will consist of performances, networking opportunities, talkbacks, and above all, camaraderie.

**FRI. AUGUST 5, 2022 7:30 - 10:30pm**

**Off the Record | Welcome Mixer**  
 The DeLuxe Theater  
 3303 Lyons Avenue, Houston, TX 77020



Kick off Homecoming weekend at the official welcome mixer with DJ sets, lite bites, cocktails, class reunions, and more! Music by Grammy-nominated engineer, producer & songwriter, Donnie Scantz '94, and multi-Grammy award-winning producer & songwriter, Bryan-Michael Cox '96. Sponsored by Highway Vodka.

**SAT. AUGUST 6, 2022 11:00am - 2:00pm**

**What I Wish I Knew (LIVE): An Edutainment Series**  
 Heinen Theatre, HCC Central Campus  
 3517 Austin Street, Houston, TX 77004

This in-person continuation of our virtual interview series was especially crafted with current and future Kinder HSPVA students in mind; it allows alumni to discuss their introduction to the "real world," share what they're currently up to, and reflect on how their time at PVA influenced who they are today. Our panelists have worked with Netflix, Disney, OWN, ABC, HBO, Alvin Ailey, Demi Lovato, Ariana Grande, and on Broadway!



# the commons.

**SAT. AUGUST 6, 2022** 7:30 - 9:30pm

**The Happening: Alumni All-Stars**  
 Kinder HSPVA  
 790 Austin Street, Houston, TX 77002

Happenings are a staple of HSPVA culture! At the original campus, at 4001 Stanford, and now, at Kinder HSPVA, the Happening is still an impactful tradition that showcases the unique talents and creativity of HSPVA's students. Our Alumni All-Stars Happening will be hosted by Samica Knight '00 and Jared Wayne Gladly '05 and will give prospective students an opportunity to actually be on campus and experience, first-hand, what the gold standard is all about.

**THE HAPPENING**  
**ALUMNI ALL-STARS**

FEATURING PERFORMANCES BY

HOSTED BY  
 SAMICA KNIGHT VOCAL '00 | JARED WAYNE GLADLY THEATRE '06

ALDARIAN HAYES INSTRUMENTAL '10 | CHARLES JONES VOCAL '00 | CHELSEA CYPHONE VOCAL '10 | TARION THEATRE '10 | ASA DAVIS INSTRUMENTAL '12 | DALETON LEE INSTRUMENTAL '99 | PEYTON VOCAL '18

JAMIE PERRY INSTRUMENTAL '14 | LENORA VOCAL '09 | LISA E. HARRIS VOCAL '08 | LAQUIN LAY INSTRUMENTAL '06 | CLEFF DUNCAN VOCAL '78 | ASHLEY TAMAR VOCAL '08 | RANDY PALMER VISUAL ART '10 | ADAM DEWALL INSTRUMENTAL '13 | RESHARD BAHAM INSTRUMENTAL '08

**SATURDAY**  
 AUG 6 • 2022 • 7:30PM  
 Kinder High School  
 For The Performing  
 and Visual Arts  
 790 AUSTIN STREET, HOUSTON, TX 77002

**+ THE HSPVA GOSPEL CHOIR**

**ban**  
 HSPVA BLACK ALUMNI NETWORK

**HOMECOMING**

LIMITED TICKETS FOR PURCHASE [HSPVABLACKALUMNI.COM](https://www.hspvablackalumni.com)

**HSPVA FAMILY REUNION**

HOSTED BY  
**ASA DAVIS & TAY POWERS**  
 INSTRUMENTAL '12 | INSTRUMENTAL '08

**AXELRAD**  
 1517 ALABAMA STREET  
 HOUSTON, TX 77004

**SUN. AUGUST 7, 2022** 2:00 - 5:00 pm

**HSPVA Family Reunion | Farewell**  
 Axelrad  
 1517 Alabama Street, Houston, TX 77004

Calling all graduating classes and campuses of HSPVA alumni! Join us for an HSPVA Family Reunion to close out our Homecoming weekend! We're bringing not just one, but TWO amazing DJs: Asa Davis '12 and Tay Powers '08.

# the commons.

All events will be **open to the public** but, ultimately, our goal is to celebrate alumni, applaud our collective accomplishments, and display our appreciation for the undeniable and unshakable foundation that prepared us to successfully make a mark in our respective careers.

HSPVA BLACK ALUMNI NETWORK

# HOMECOMING

E V E N T S

---

## OFF THE RECORD

WELCOME MIXER

**FRIDAY • AUG 5**  
7:30-10:30PM

**The DeLUXE Theater**

3303 LYONS AVE.,  
HOUSTON, TX 77020

SPONSORED BY



## WHAT I WISH I KNEW

### LIVE

AN EDUTAINMENT SERIES

**SATURDAY • AUG 6**  
11AM-2PM

**Heinen Theatre**

3517 AUSTIN STREET  
HOUSTON, TX 77004

THE ORIGINAL HSPVA CAMPUS



---

## THE HAPPENING

### ALUMNI ALL-STARS

**SATURDAY • AUG 6**  
7:30PM-9:30PM

**Kinder High School For The Performing And Visual Arts**

790 AUSTIN STREET  
HOUSTON, TX 77002

HOSTED BY



---

## HSPVA FAMILY REUNION

**SUNDAY • AUG 7**  
2PM-5PM

**AXELRAD**

1517 ALABAMA STREET,  
HOUSTON, TX 77004

**ASA DAVIS**  
INSTRUMENTAL '12

**TAY POWERS**  
INSTRUMENTAL '08

LIMITED TICKETS FOR PURCHASE

HSPVABLACKALUMNI.COM

You found the secret code! Enter the code **LUCKY** [here](#) or on our Eventbrite for one free general admission package to all events

# the commons.

## 2021-22 SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS

### UNDERCLASSMEN SCHOLARSHIP

CORTLANDT BARRETT, THEATRE '23

HALEY PRINCE, THEATRE '23

MADISON MANNING, DANCE '24

TYRIANNA CALDWELL, VOCAL '24

### BRYAN-MICHAEL COX LEGACY AWARD

JADEN MADGETT, THEATRE '22

TOMI AKINWANDE, THEATRE '22

### ROBERT HODGE LEGACY AWARD

JULYAH WILLIAMS, VISUAL '22

### EMERGING LEADER AWARD

JANNAH COLLINS, DANCE '20

ELISE GENTRY, INSTRUMENTAL '21



# happenings.

## houston.



From August 3rd - 6th, **Jackson Swinton (Theatre '24)** and Tommy Tune-nominated **Grant Eason (HSPVA '22)** are both starring in *Is God Is* at REC ROOM ARTS. This will be Eason's final performance before he heads to The Julliard School this fall. Be sure to check out [www.recroomarts.org](http://www.recroomarts.org) for more info.



On August 6th at REC ROOM ARTS, **Indigo Dewdrop (Theatre '16)** will be hosting an Afrofusion Film Festival of local filmmakers' genre-bending Black narratives.. The pre-show social starts at 1 pm and films begin screening at 2 pm. Be sure to check out [www.recroomarts.org](http://www.recroomarts.org) for more info.



**Alycia Miles (Vocal '03)** and The Hue will be performing in the 2nd Annual Miller Summer Mixtape showcase August 24 - 26, 2022.. The Summer Mixtape series is a 3-day, multi-genre, independent music showcase featuring Houston's top local acts. From Hip-Hop to Soul, Indie to Pop, and Rockabilly to Folk, music lovers are invited to enjoy their favorite local artists on the hill, under the stars, or from the pavilion seats.

## nyc.



**Denise Ward (Vocal '12)** will be performing alongside actress and singer SIS in her Green Room 42 debut showcase "25" on August 11 at 9:30 PM. Tickets can be purchased online at [thegreenroom42.venuetix.com](http://thegreenroom42.venuetix.com).

### GOT SOMETHING HAPPENING SOON?

Let us know and we'll help spread the word!  
Email us at [hspvablackalumninetwork@gmail.com](mailto:hspvablackalumninetwork@gmail.com) or send us a DM on Instagram.





## Golden Opportunities

By Gabby Byrd

How do you pin down a man who, just this year alone, has released an album, performed at the Oscars and at several Blue Note Jazz Festivals, played a two-week European tour, and celebrated his second child's first birthday? Quickly answer that "You free now?" text you were only somewhat anticipating, and do your best to make good use of his 20-minute ride to the airport. Known by many as the musician whose Grammy-winning crossover album, *Black Radio*, effectively solidified jazz's place in mainstream hip-hop and r&b, **Robert Glasper (Jazz '97)** has his dexterous fingers in just about every pie at the dinner party. Join me and everyone's favorite class clown for a trip down Memory Lane that leads to and from a windowless building disguised as a gold mine.

CONVERSATION.



ヒューストン芸術高校 ジャズバンド  
HSPVA Jazz Ensemble  
千葉市・千葉姉妹都市市民の会

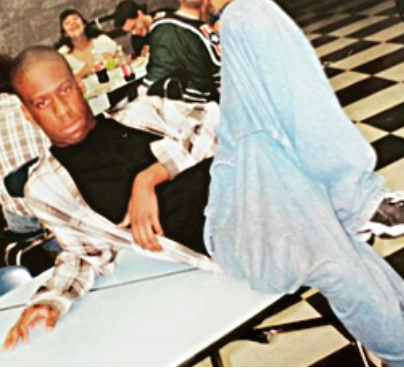


From left to right, Mark Kelley, Kendrick Scott, Mckenzie Smith, George Rambow, Dustin Drews, Robert "Doc" Morgan, Walter Smith III, Mike Moreno, Richard Cruz, and Robert Glasper (1997). Courtesy of Mike Moreno.

**Ever** since his college days touring as a sideman for jazz trumpeters Roy Hargrove and bassist Christian McBride, Robert Glasper's list of notable credits as a bandleader, producer, arranger, and composer has grown exponentially. In addition to his early trio projects with Damion Reid on drums and Bob Hurst or Vicente Archer on bass, he has worked with various artists of the [Soulquarian collective](#) over the years--including Hargrove, hip hop heads like Questlove, Common, Q-Tip, and Yasiin Bey (formerly known as Mos Def), and neo-soul songstresses Bilal and Erykah Badu--and even taken to scoring films like Don Cheadle's Miles Davis biopic, *Miles Ahead* (2015) and, most recently, television series like HBO's *Winning Time: The Rise of The Lakers Dynasty* (2022). Give him another 44 years and his resumé could potentially rival that of Quincy Jones.

Some might find it hard to believe that when Glasper auditioned for the High School for Performing & Visual Arts as an 8th grader, he hardly knew any jazz at all. In the years leading up to his audition, he had actually been playing clarinet in Quail Valley Middle School's marching band. As the only child of vocalist and pianist, [Kim Yvette](#), who in Glasper's younger days was a versatile and well-established musician in the Houston area, he was introduced to many different genres when his mother would bring him along on her gigs. However, most of his skill and musical knowledge was acquired at home and in the church pews. So, naturally, instead of playing typical jazz standards, Glasper auditioned with the Spiderman theme song—a C minor blues with a walking bass line and a few cool chords he had learned from his mother's pianist, Alan Mosley—and two gospel songs, one of which was ["Take It Away From Me"](#) by Reverend Ernest Davis, Jr. and the Wilmington/Chester Mass Choir.





Glasper in the HSPVA Commons. (1997)  
Courtesy of Samica Knight & John Knight



Glasper on the bench during an after school practice.



Bilal and Glasper (circa 1998).  
Courtesy of Orrin Evans.



Glasper and Roy Hargrove at a party.

Robert “Doc” Morgan, the man who ran HSPVA’s jazz program for over two decades, recalls that when he asked Glasper to name a jazz pianist he admired, he—unbeknownst to Doc at the time—simply read Oscar Peterson’s name off a concert poster he spotted in the jazz room. In fact, even though he was accepted into HSPVA, he chose to attend Elkins High School instead because he wanted to play basketball and stay close to his then-girlfriend. It’s hard to say what became of that relationship but, according to Glasper, his dreams of becoming a basketball star dissipated when he ended up riding the bench his entire freshman year. “I always say I slipped the bench over to the piano and that’s been my saving grace,” he shares in a [recent interview](#) with Vulture.

His gospel group, The Melodies of East Wind, helped him make use of that down time when they competed for the Sammy Davis Jr. Award against Bryan-Michael Cox’s R&B group, Business or Pleasure. Glasper remembers, “It was him and three other dudes: another alum named Troy Clark, Troy’s brother, and our homeboy named Scooby. Scooby went to Elkins where I was going to school, so my freshman year, he told me, ‘You need to go to PVA. All of my homeboys go to PVA. You belong at PVA.’ When Melodies of East Wind won the competition, Cox was next in line to urge him to switch schools. There’s a joke here somewhere about idle hands being the devil’s playground... In hindsight, it seems that his steps had been ordered in the right direction because, eventually, he grew tired of being The Piano Guy at Elkins. They’d beg and say, ‘Play ‘I Need Love.’ Play this, play that. Play that Brian McKnight joint.’ What Robert really needed was some healthy competition amongst his peers that could motivate him to extend himself. When he finally made it to PVA his 10th grade year, he experienced that initial shock with which most of us are familiar:

**“I had never seen nothing like that in my life,” he says. “I hadn’t even watched Fame up until that point, so I didn’t know what it was going to be, but it was just cool to see other kids that were into what I was into—that were really into playing music, especially playing jazz.”**

For young people who choose to dedicate their high school years to honing their craft, it’s no secret that HSPVA’s rigorous curriculum and unique atmosphere both elevate its students to a level of preparedness that pales in comparison to other schools in the Houston area. If a student is focused, committed to persevering through the program, and—above all things—talented, opportunities abound for years and years to come. In Glasper’s case, these attributes allowed him the opportunity to attend New York City’s prestigious New School absolutely free of charge. Since New School and Berklee College of Music both offered him full scholarships his junior year, he didn’t even have to take the SATs. He explains that, “you don’t realize it until you get out to the regular world and you’re like ‘goddamn, we’re way ahead of all of y’all’ [...] I canceled out of everything my freshman year of college. Literally, they had no more classes for me.” All that was left were extracurricular playing classes like Tribute to Herbie Hancock and Tribute to John Coltrane.

Eventually, as rehearsals and gigs at places like The Village Vanguard started to pile up and the tour bus took him further and further away from the city, most of his

instructors had resigned themselves to accept his attendance at the end-of-semester concerts as sufficient for class credit. "Close enough for jazz," as the saying goes. This mimicked a similar arrangement he had with Ms. Pryce and Ms. Smith Williams, the two English teachers who ran PVA's Black History shows in the late nineties. It didn't fly for some, though. "It's unfortunate. A lot of the teachers at New School had a chip on their shoulder because I was doing the gigs that they feel like they should be doing...and I'm Black. It was a lot of that whole thing," he admits. Luckily for him, Reggie Workman, former bassist for John Coltrane and Art Blakey, was a Black faculty member with good standing at the institution and he understood Gasper's situation. He'd say, "I got you. Just go out and do your thing and wear the New School t-shirt every now and then." Regardless of the industry, sometimes the key to success all boils down to who you know. When you know as many people as Robert Gasper and even more people know you as someone with the power to influence the masses, some say this creates certain responsibilities.

Just a few short months ago, Gasper and his crew had the chance to participate in a special performance at the Hollywood Bowl to celebrate Juneteenth, a now-federal holiday that has only recently begun to receive widespread attention beyond Texas' borders and other southern states. Adding to the splendor was the debut performance of the all-Black Recollective Orchestra directed by Derrick Hodge, a prolific bassist, composer, and one of Gasper's frequent collaborators. Looking back on the celebration, Gasper reflects, "It was dope! I had my daughter there, it was Father's Day, it was special. I felt like with our segment, we were able to really get something off, as far as like, a real message [...] I just felt like a lot of it was singing and dancing. I felt like we didn't really take advantage of 'this is airing on CNN.' Like, let's have more teachable moments, you know? Versus, 'hey, this person's performing, this person's performing.' People see that all the time. So, I felt like there could have been more teachable moments in a way, but I felt like we were able to do that within the art and not make it feel like a teachable moment, but it was."

Staying true to the spirit of both jazz and hip hop, Gasper recognizes and accepts the challenge of tackling social issues of the day with his music. A prime example of this can be heard in the first two tracks of *Black Radio III* (2022) where Amir Sulaiman, Killer Mike, BJ The Chicago Kid, and Big K.R.I.T all help demonstrate just how "in tune" he is with the current state of affairs.

**"When things are happening in the world and you make an album, you have to make a choice whether you want to talk about the things going on in the world in your album or give people a break from it," Gasper explains.**

"So, that's why I did that on this album and I started it with those two songs—the Amir joint and 'Black Superhero.' I did it first just to address the elephant in the room. Then if you want, you can start from track 3 but you don't have to... so, I gave them a choice but I felt like I really had to say something." It was Nina Simone that famously said, "an artist's duty, as far as I'm concerned, is to reflect the times." While she believed that real artists have no choice in the matter, Gasper let the ultimate choice lie with the listener.

Take a look at any power struggle throughout history and you'll find that there is always strength in numbers. Perhaps that's part of the reason why Gasper seems to enjoy assembling and taking





R+R=NOW from left to right: Glasper, Terrace Martin, Derrick Hodge, Taylor McFerrin, Christian Scott aTunde Adjuah, and Justin Tyson. Photo by Todd Cooper



HSPVA Black Alumni at Robert Glasper pop up at Kulture. (Pictured) Burniss Travis, Adam Dewalt, Robert Hodge, Tay Powers, Chase Jordan, Chris Dave, Joshua Washington, Joshua Green, Jerome Gillespie, James Francies, Fred McBride, Lisa E. Harris, Dannie Walker, Anita Barksdale, Denise Ward, Nicole Hurst, Brandon Willis, and Troy Clark



August Greene: Glasper, Common, and Karriem Riggins.

part in supergroup collaborations like **R+R=NOW** where each member is a visionary creator in their own right, dedicated to the duty of both "Reflecting" and "Responding" to the here and now. Regardless of the name tied to the group, whether it's R+R=NOW, **August Greene** (with rapper Common and drummer/producer Karriem Riggins), or **Dinner Party** (with multi-instrumentalist Terrace Martin, rapper 9th Wonder, and saxophonist Kamasi Washington), where two or three are gathered with Robert Glasper, there's bound to be another PVA alum on the bill or waiting on a last minute "you free?" text because, once you've found your tribe, you keep them close--even after nearly 30 years have passed.

When Robert and I had our talk, he happened to be on tour and in the car with two other HSPVA alumni, drummer Chris Dave (Jazz '90) and bassist Burniss Earl Travis II (Jazz '05)--whom we spoke with just [a few newsletters ago](#). Robert likens this phenomenon to being in a fraternity.

**"No matter how young or far apart you are from other people at PVA, once you find out they're PVA [...] it's like a family. You automatically look out for each other, you know what I mean? And the fact that you're doing the 50th, it just brings that all together."**

**R:** Some of my favorite moments from being at PVA were going to Shipley's before school started. C'mon, Burniss *(laughs)*. Was the Shipley's there when you were there, Chris?... We had that table, you know you have that special table you sit at in the morning?

**G:** Yep, in the Commons. Were you guys in the middle?

**R:** Nah, we were against the wall kinda by the recital hall. Me, Walter Smith, Kendrick Scott, Mark Kelley. I had a lot of fun in them practice rooms. Oh, we can't talk about that, can we?

**G:** Sure, we're out of school!

**R:** Those make-out sessions... I had a lot of make-out sessions in those practice rooms and in the Denney Theatre under the stage. C'mon! *(laughs)* I can say it now. I'm grown, I can't get in trouble.



Members of the Robert Glasper Experiment including Derrick Hodge, Chris Dave, and Casey Benjamin pose with their Grammy for best R & B album for "Black Radio" at the 55th Annual Grammy Awards in 2013.

# interlude.



scan playlist



**Maiden Voyage**  
Robert Glasper Trio



**Gonna Be Alright (F.T.B)** ft. Ledisi



**Day to Day**  
Robert Glasper



**Jelly's Da Beener**  
Robert Glasper



**Jesus Children**  
ft. Lalah Hathaway



**Been On My Mind R-R=NOW** ft. Amber Navran



**J Dillalude**  
Robert Glasper



**Stella By Starlight**  
Robert Glasper



**Black Superhero**  
ft. Killer Mike, BJ the Chicago Kid, Big KRIT



**59 South**  
Robert Glasper Trio



**Right On Brotha**  
ft. Stevie Wonder



**All Masks**  
ft. Masego

# call board.

## Volunteers Wanted for Homecoming

Receive free general admission  
to each event worked!

Off the Record (Friday 8/5)  
volunteers must be 21+ and  
Edutainment Series  
(Saturday 8/6) volunteers  
must be 18+.



## Were you in a Gospel Choir at PVA?

Join other former members  
for a one-night only  
performance at the Alumni  
Al-Stars Happening on  
Saturday, August 6th.

Rehearsals are at Garza  
Studios on Wednesday,  
August 3rd at 6:30pm



## a.cknowledgements

### Thank you to our Homecoming Weekend Planning Committee Members!

- Ashley Tamar Davis (Vocal '98) and Jonathan Jackson (Alumni Parent), Co-Chairs
- Eric Harland (Jazz '94)
  - Robert Hodge (Visual '98)
  - Dr. Pretta Stallworth (Sponsor and Alumni Parent)
  - Mignonne Anderson Goode (Alumni Parent)
  - Monica Hatter-Mayes (Dance '00)
  - Anita Barksdale (Vocal '98)
  - Anissa Martell Harland (Vocal '97)
  - Keisha Battle (Vocal '98)
  - Alexis "Fly" Jones (Visual Art '03)
  - Anthony Boggess-Glover (Vocal '87)
  - Nicque Montgomery (Current Parent)
  - Chelsey Cartwright (Instrumental '08)
  - Leah Stephens-Ramirez (Vocal '96)

## a.lbums and other music

### Robert Glasper (Jazz '97)

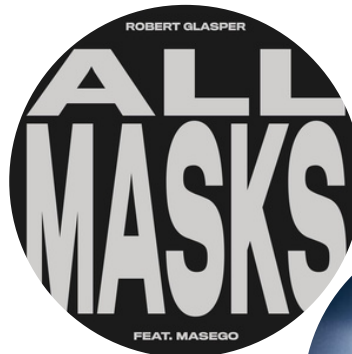
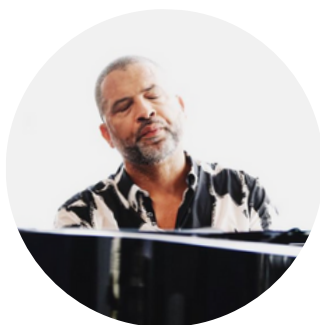
Glasper's song "All Masks" featuring Masego is now streaming on all platforms. It was co-produced by Glasper and Bryan-Michael Cox

### Bryan-Michael Cox (Vocal '96)

Co-produced dvsn's new single "If I Get Caught" with Jermaine Dupri and Felly the Voice. Stay tuned for his new track with Usher entitled "I Ain't Gone Hold U"

### Beyonce (Vocal '99)

Her widely-anticipated album, *Renaissance*, is streaming now on all platforms.



## a.ppearances

### Nneka Okafor (Theatre '04)

Catch her playing the role of Jessie in Freeform's *Everything's Trash* alongside Phoebe Robinson every Wednesday night at 9pm CT.

### Samantha Williams (Theatre '15)

Starring in the short film, *Jesus Would Have Loved Punk Rock*, alongside Maddie Lucas (Theatre '19). Directed by Abby George.

### Jason Moran (Jazz '94)

Performed at Newport jazz Festival with his trio The Bandwagon (with Tarus Mateen and Nasheet Waits). The trio is currently celebrating its 20th anniversary.

#### WRITE TO US

We want to hear what you've been up to! Send us your stories and photos, and we'll share the highlights here. Email us at [hspvablackalumninetwork@gmail.com](mailto:hspvablackalumninetwork@gmail.com)



# who we are.

The purpose of the HSPVA Black Alumni Network is to connect Black alumni of The High School for Performing and Visual Arts, support alumni and current students' endeavors, and provide resources, scholarships, and networking opportunities to champion the next generation of HSPVA artists and professionals.

## creative team



**DENISE WARD**  
Chair  
Vocal '12



**CAPRA FELLOWS**  
Vice-Chair  
Theatre '11



**GABBY BYRD**  
Secretary  
Vocal '11



**KIERRA MARTIN**  
Treasurer  
Dance '13



**HENRY ELLIS DAVIS**  
Technology Chair  
Theatre '09



**DABRINA SANDIFER**  
Scholarship Co-Chair  
Theatre '06



**TAYLAR LEWIS**  
Scholarship Co-Chair  
Theatre '11



**EDWARD BELL**  
Engagement Co-Chair  
Vocal '10



**MALCOLM JACKSON**  
Engagement Co-Chair  
Instrumental '10



**ALDARIAN MAYES**  
Jazz '10



**TAYLOR SCOTT**  
Theatre '19



**DJ CARR**  
Vocal '18



**CHRISTIAN WARNER**  
Dance '12



**STEPHEN HUDSON**  
Vocal '03

## how you can help

### Serve on the Creative Team

The Creative Team is a collective of HSPVA alumni who coordinate events, programming, and fundraising on behalf of the network.

### Support one of our Alumni events

We host the Holiday Jam Social every December, an Alumni Happening in the summer, and we currently have additional performance opportunities and collaborations in the works.

### Contribute to our scholarship fund

Support our 2021-2022 vision as we seek to increase our monetary giving and award at least (10) students with scholarships or grants.