

the  
**cheekin.**

**BACKBONE**  
*OF THE*  
**B(L)ACKBEAT**

Herman Matthews (Jazz '79)



# inside.

## Executive Board

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WHO WE ARE




**ON THE COVER and INSIDE**  
Matthews at Canyon High  
School's 2018 Night of Percussion.  
Photos courtesy of Brad Arnold.

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



# Hey Family,

Can you believe we've been in existence for almost five years now? Each year has surpassed the last, and this one was no exception. Already this year, we have raised over \$35,000 towards scholarships, hosted another series of successful happenings and happy hours, and launched our Leadership Through Legacy (LTL) Mentorship program!

Our Speed Mentor Match event never felt like enough time, so we extended it into LTL. Not only did participants have an opportunity to spend several months with a mentor working on a project, skill, or goal they wanted to achieve, but they also had a chance to attend a resume workshop and a "What I Wish I Knew" panel (both led by PVA alumni). Knowing how beneficial this would've been for me as a student makes me so proud to be able to give this experience to other students and alumni!

Being a part of this family is one of my favorite things. Whenever I go back to the school and do something with the current students, I always say that I see my classmates in them. I'm constantly reminded that the Black PVA alumni community is one of the most creative and authentic groups I've ever been a part of, and I look forward to seeing how we can cultivate it even more.

ALL THE BEST,

**Capra Fellows,**  
VICE PRESIDENT  
HSPVA BLACK ALUMNI NETWORK



**a note  
from the  
vice pres.**





## What happened?

### ➔ Year-End Legacy Mixer

We had such a wonderful time celebrating the end of the 2022-23 school year with the current students, incoming freshmen, Black Legacy in the Arts (BLA), and other members of our Network at the Year-End Legacy Mixer.

In addition to celebrating such a successful year, BAN was able to honor and acknowledge our 2023 BAN Scholarship Recipients! The students are listed here and each of the scholarships is detailed in the next few pages. Check them out and don't forget to apply next year! Several awards are open to alumni AND current Kinder HSPVA students.

### 'BAN 2022-23 Scholarship Recipients

Ajani Lewis  
Ashley Franklin  
Callie Holley  
Charis Kelley  
Cortlandt Barrett  
Chanice Posada  
Elijah Islam  
Gavin Warfield  
Grace Duncan  
Haley Prince  
Imani Giles  
Jackson Swinton  
Jasmine Dixon

Jayla McDonald  
Kai Tregre  
Keri Palmer  
Lauren Philpott  
Lauryl Palmer  
Madison Manning  
Tomi Akinwande  
Samson Dinkins III  
Savannah Dever  
Sydney Gibson  
Sydney Robertson  
Tess Reed  
Tyrianna Caldwell

## What's next?

### ➔ 'BAN's 5th Anniversary Celebration

This October, the HSPVA Black Alumni Network will celebrate 5 years of connections and impact with events in Houston, TX and in NYC. Make sure you're subscribed to our mailing list and following us on all our social media platforms so you can stay up to date.

[SUBSCRIBE HERE](#)



# BAN 2023 SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS

Championing the next generation of HSPVA artists and professionals.



These two awards are for seniors who exemplify excellence in their creative discipline and plan to continue their educational advancement.



## BAN OUTSTANDING SENIOR AWARD

This renewable award is for current Kinder HSPVA seniors who are academically talented, highly motivated, and planning to pursue an undergraduate degree.



## WOODS ENTERTAINMENT AWARD

This award is for alumni currently enrolled at an accredited college, university, or trade school AND current Kinder HSPVA seniors of any art area who wish to pursue careers in the entertainment industry.



This award is intended to assist current Kinder HSPVA students of any art area and grade level who are participating in summer development opportunities.





# BAN 2023 SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS

Championing the next generation of HSPVA artists and professionals.

For current 9th-11th grade Kinder HSPVA students planning to attend summer workshops or training programs that will further their artistic development in their respective art areas.

## UNDERCLASSMEN AWARD



JACKSON SWINTON, THEATRE '25  
 TYRIANNA CALDWELL, VOCAL '24  
 AJANI LEWIS, INSTRUMENTAL '25  
 MADISON MANNING, DANCE '24  
 SAVANNAH DEVER, THEATRE '24

JAYLA MCDONALD, THEATRE '24  
 LAUREN PHILPOTT, THEATRE '25  
 TESS REED, INSTRUMENTAL '24  
 SYDNEY GIBSON, VOCAL '24  
 GAVIN WARFIELD, DANCE '25



## LTL MENTEE AWARD

For eligible alumni and Kinder HSPVA students currently participating in the Leadership Through Legacy (LTL) Mentorship Program.



KAI TREGRE, THEATRE '25  
 JASMINE DIXON, THEATRE '25  
 SYDNEY ROBERTSON, THEATRE '25  
 GRACE DUNCAN, CREATIVE WRITING '25  
 IMANI GILES, THEATRE '26

For HSPVA alumni currently enrolled at an accredited college, university, or trade school who are actively pursuing positions of leadership in their communities or in the workplace. This award, funded by The Newrez Community Investment Initiative, is intended to assist with costs for professional development.

## EMERGING LEADER AWARD

OLUTOMILOLA AKINWANDE, THEATRE '22  
 CHARIS KELLEY, VISUAL '94  
 SAMSON DINKINS, INSTRUMENTAL '21  
 KERI PALMER, VOCAL '20







**HOUSTON JAZZ COLLECTIVE**

SHELLEY CARROL  
ANDRE HAYWARD  
PHILLIP K. JONES  
TIM RUIZ  
SAM KNIGHT

JAZZ INSPIRED BY  
MING SMITH:  
"FEELING THE FUTURE"

6:30 PM  
THURS, JUNE 29  
5216 MONTROSE BLVD.  
rsvp: camh.org

Contemporary Arts Museum Houston

Ming Smith, Red Hot Jazz II, 1979. Archival pigment print, 24 x 36. Image, image and work courtesy Ming Smith Studio

In collaboration with Contemporary Arts Museum Houston, the Houston Jazz Collective will be giving a specially curated jazz performance on Thursday, June 29 at 6:30pm.

**The band is almost entirely comprised of HSPVA alumni!**

This event is free but you must RSVP online at [camh.org](http://camh.org)



LARRY MORROW • ZOE NATION

**LETOYA LOCKETT**

R&B DAY PARTY

AND BRYAN-MICHAEL COX

SATURDAY JULY 1ST 2PM

2222 POYDRAS ST. NEW ORLEANS, LA 70119  
PURCHASE TICKETS & SECTIONS @ [WWW.LARRYMORROWEVENTS.COM](http://WWW.LARRYMORROWEVENTS.COM)

On Saturday, July 1st, join **LeToya Lockett (Vocal)\***, **Bryan-Michael Cox (Vocal '96)**, and friends for the R&B Day Party at Empire Orleans in New Orleans, LA. Event begins at 2pm.

Purchase tickets at [larrymorrowevents.com](http://larrymorrowevents.com)



**Jeremy Dutton**

**ANYONE IS BETTER THAN HERE**

ALBUM RELEASE SHOW

**ROULETTE**  
JULY 3<sup>RD</sup> 2023

feat.  
BEN WENDEL  
JOEL ROSS  
JAMES FRANCIES  
RICK ROSATO

509 ATLANTIC AVE. BROOKLYN, NY  
DOORS: 6:30 | TICKETS: \$20

Don't miss drummer **Jeremy Dutton's (Jazz '12)** album release show on Monday, July 3rd, for *Anyone Is Better Than Here*, his first album as a bandleader. Supporting him will be saxophonist Ben Wendel, vibraphonist Joel Ross, pianist **James Francies (Jazz '13)**, and bassist Rick Rosato. The show is at at Roulette in Brooklyn, NY and starts at 6:30pm.

Purchase tickets at [imjeremydutton.com](http://imjeremydutton.com)

**happenings.**





Don't miss **Jared Wayne Gladly (Theatre '05)** playing the role of Reverend Olamina in Octavia E. Butler's *Parable of the Sower*, an opera by Toshi Reagon and Bernice Johnson Reagon. The NYC premiere will be on July 14-15th as part of Lincoln Center's "Summer for the City" event series.

More info at [lincolncenter.org](http://lincolncenter.org)

**Lenora (Vocal '09) and DJ Tay Powers (Instrumental '00)** will be supporting The Suffers at the Museum of Fine Arts Houston's Mixed Media event on Saturday July 15th. Show starts at 8pm in the Audrey Jones Beck Building.

Purchase tickets at [mfah.org/mixedmedia](http://mfah.org/mixedmedia)



Harris County Cultural Arts Center's (HCCAC) Artist in Residence, **Randy 'WROSIV' Palmer (Visual '10)**, will celebrate the closing night of his "MENTAL" collective exhibition at HCCAC on Friday, June 30th, 6pm.

RSVP [here](#)

**MAJOR. (Vocal '02)** returns home to Houston on Friday, July 7th to rock the stage at Stafford Centre Performing Arts Theatre alongside Lyfe Jennings, Sentury and Tanya Nolan. Show starts at 7pm.

Purchase tickets at [staffordcentre.com](http://staffordcentre.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.



**happenings.**



# Backbone of the B(l)ackbeat

By Gabby Byrd

**Herman Matthews (Jazz '79)** grew up in Acres Home on the Northside of Houston. While watching The Lawrence Welk Show as a six-year-old, he started showing an interest in the drums. It wasn't long before he was hand drumming "[Wipe Out](#)" onto his desk at Durkee Elementary and driving his poor first grade teacher crazy in the process. She promptly delivered him to the school's music teacher, if for no other reason than for self-preservation.

At age 11, Matthews started playing drums alongside his cousin, a guitarist, in their Uncle Allen's blues organ trio. Several nights a week, Uncle Allen paid his nephews to play the blues and to help lug his B3 Hammond organ up and down the juke joint stairs night after night. Those muscles certainly came in handy later.

Like many in his family, Matthews was an athletic, sports-minded type. He ran track, played basketball, and, as a running back on his middle school football team playing both offense and defense, he actually beat OJ Simpson's professional rushing record of 2,003 yards! "I had cousins who were amazing football players and I had a second cousin who was the defensive coach at UCLA, so football was the thing that I was going to do—along with music," or so he thought.

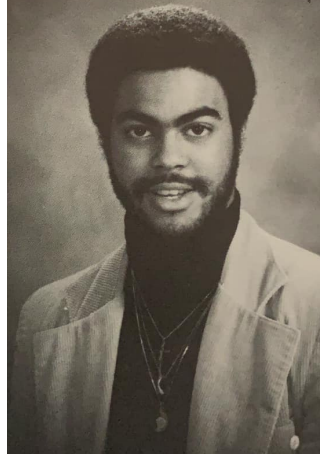
Ann Cornwell Price, his middle school band director, was the first to warn him, "Herman, your heart is not into football anymore," but he ignored her. When it came time to try out for Waltrip High School's football team, he was surprised to learn that, over the course of the summer between middle school and high school, everyone had grown stronger and faster than him. At the tryouts, after attempting a tackle and falling flat on his face, he looked up into the stands and found Ms. Price's head shaking in disapproval. He said to himself, "You know what? I'm gonna play music for the rest of my life." From there, he went straight to PVA and auditioned at the last minute for Ed Trongone (Robert "Doc" Morgan's predecessor and the Founding Director of HSPVA's Jazz Department). "I guess they can say, 'now the rest is history,'" he jokes.

conversation.



In the fall of 1976, when Matthews began his sophomore year at HSPVA, students were allowed a minor discipline which often included arts “cross-over days.” This later evolved into an Interim Term where students could take elective “academic and life-skills courses for enrichment, work on art areas other than their majors, or participate in rehearsals for the upcoming all-school musical.” Matthews was classified as an Instrumental Music major with a minor in Visual Art but, as is the story with most PVA alumni, he is a man of many hidden talents.

In response to my question about how he came to find out about HSPVA, he mentions



Herman's senior photo (above left). Playing at an HSPVA Happening (above right). Photos courtesy of Matthews.

various connections: older cousins that attended PVA, an older girlfriend in PVA’s Dance Department, other participants in the mayor’s summer youth program, and friends in C. Lee Turner’s award-winning theatre department at M.C. Williams High School (now middle school). Because of the dancer he dated, he even took a few dance classes. “I ended up not dancing. I still do some art, but music is the main thing.” Of course, after learning about his [#HealthyRoadWarrior blog posts](#) and Lil’ Herman’s Old Fashioned Peanut Brittle, I took this opportunity to ask about his apparent love for cooking. He shares that his grandmothers played a big role in inspiring that love and adds, “it’s all a part of creating.”

His first year at the synagogue-turned-high-school was a busy one. Though playing the blues with his family had given him an opportunity to perform often, it didn’t pay the kind of money he knew he could earn outside of the Chitlin’ Circuit—a collection of venues that acted as a safe space for Black performers from the 1930s to 1960s. Matthews started searching for ways to diversify. “The thing that was great about being in Houston was you had to learn how to play jazz, funk, soul, country, rock; you had to do everything in order to survive.” According to Matthews, although the city had great musicians, there weren’t a lot of them. Touring groups often hired PVA students to fill in the gaps. “I would go and play some of the percussion things for the circus that would come through. We were part of the Union,” he explains. He was just a teenager! But, as is so often



Back row: Ed Trongone, Principal Norma Lowder, Warren Sneed, Herman Matthews, Doc Morgan. Front row: Nancy Moser and Erika (Ford) Johnson. Spring 1978.



Center, playing at an HSPVA Happening. Photo courtesy of Matthews.



the case with young talent, there usually comes a time when tough decisions have to be made between commitments to your art and your education. Even attending a school like HSPVA doesn't completely remedy that dilemma.

Rather shamefully, Matthews recalls a decision he made the night of a jazz concert at the school. "I, being the principal drummer, was supposed to play this solo, but I also had a gig at this place called Cody's. I was playing with the Paul English Group—which was a big fusion band in Houston—and the concert at school was running late, so I left to go play my gig." Since Doc Morgan, Matthews' jazz teacher, liked to share the emcee's role with his students and have them introduce some of the songs, he missed Matthews' presence in more ways than one. Without fail, he would always utter something to make Doc say, "I wish I could have seen Pat Bonner's face when you said that." Despite the brief lapse in judgment, he and Doc have stayed connected all these years. When Matthews was inducted into the [HSPVA Jazz Hall of Fame](#) at the 2015 DocFest, it was nothing short of a sweet reunion.



Warren Sneed (Jazz '77), Matthews, Doc, and Everette Harp (Jazz '79).



With musician and Houston club owner, Scott Gertner (Jazz '77).

"I was involved with just about every musical situation that was there at PVA," Matthews remembers. He played in Young Performers, in senior recitals, and in several Happenings—some of them with Gospel Connection. Knowing this, I—not at all by accident—wore my BAN Legacy hoodie (featuring several Gospel Connection members) for our video call. As expected, the ice was broken before it even had a chance to form. "Let me see. The young man to your left? That's Elias White, that's my cousin! He was a vocalist," he started. "Who else is all in there? Oh my goodness. That's Gwendolyn [Tryon Ross]..." Until that moment, I honestly hadn't realized how surreal it might be to see my classmates' faces on some stranger's shirt nearly 45 years out of context. His joy and excitement was palpable.

**"All the dark things... I tend to forget if there were any at all during the time that I was there, only because I really had a great time."**

When Matthews was invited to audition for the U.S. Air Force's Airmen of Note as a high school senior, he was excited about the prospect of being in such a prestigious jazz ensemble and achieving a higher rank in the service than his father. Auditions were around the time that he would've started college, but Doc assured him it was a worthwhile opportunity and had even arranged for him to prepare by playing with the Houston Jazz Society for several weeks before audition day. Unfortunately, a previously unknown





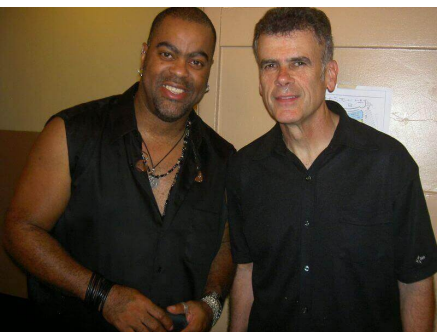
With saxophonist Kirk Whalum and vocalist Teresa James. Photo courtesy of Matthews.



With actor/singer Hugh Laurie and the Copper Bottom Band.



With Brent Carter, then-lead singer of Tower of Power. Photo courtesy of Rodney Harrison.



With David Garibaldi on the Tom Jones/Tower of Power Summer Tour. Photo courtesy of Matthews.

issue with his back kept Matthews from being able to accept the Air Force gig when it was finally offered to him. Since it was too late to accept his scholarships to Berklee College of Music or Indiana University, he decided to just keep gigging in Houston and see where that took him. “Well,” he says, “I fell into that trap of making great money and working with great players and I never went to school.”

By the late 80s, his good fortune started to run short. “I literally went from a band that was playing six nights a week to packed houses to playing an hour outside of Houston at a Holiday Inn to four or six people.” On the drive home from that gig, he decided that he wanted to move to L.A. A few days later, he got a call from a saxophonist he had met while playing in Texas State University’s Big Band: Kirk Whalum. Coincidentally, Whalum called asking him to join his band and move to L.A. but, since Whalum didn’t have any gigs on the horizon, Matthews opted to stay on the grind in Houston. “Deliver me from a man that doesn’t work,” his mother always used to say. Eventually, Whalum invited him *again* to join his band which, this time, had ample work on the books.

In 1988, he moved to L.A. He arrived just a day before his two-night run with Kirk Whalum at The Baked Potato, a prominent jazz club Matthews notes is “still, even today, one of the choice places for musicians to play.” The house was packed both nights. Just by being “The Groove Guy” in the right place at the right time, he scored a handful of auditions—one with Al Jarreau—and his next two touring gigs. First, was with [jazz fusion keyboardist Bob James](#) (who Whalum was a sideman for at the time); next, with “Footloose” singer [Kenny Loggins](#) (whose bass player had dropped in on a session Whalum was doing with George Duke). From those gigs stemmed tours with Richard Marx, the Isley Brothers, and eventually, Tower of Power.

Playing with Tower of Power (TOP), a Bay Area funk band known for hits like [“What Is Hip?”](#) and “You’re Still a Young Man,” was “a dream come true,” says Matthews. In fact, he and his close friend, [saxophonist Everette Harp](#), had played a TOP song entitled “Squib Cakes” at their HSPVA senior recital in the Denney Theatre. They had Doc play and sing on it as well. Despite his respect and admiration for the band, he says he “caught hell” for seemingly trying to sound like David Garibaldi, the band’s original drummer. Still, he enjoyed his time with the band and even wrote a few songs for their 1997 *Rhythm and Business* album. Just a few weeks ago, he subbed with the band again for their performance at Blue Note’s Napa Summer Sessions.

Somehow, between tours with TOP, Kenny Loggins, “It’s Not Unusual” singer, Tom Jones, and a long list of other notable acts, he managed to get

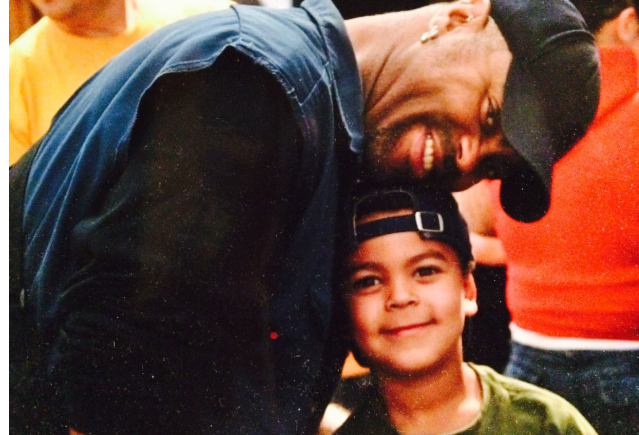


married and start a family. He confesses that it was a challenging time, trying to set a wedding date and be present for the birth (and childhood) of his first and only child. "Literally, I would leave one tour and go to the next and then I'd be gone for another six weeks [...] I have friends who were on the road more than me, and their kids have grown up to hate them. It's not quite that bad with my son. We are great friends now."

Given the title of his 2007 album, *Home at Last*, I wondered if, by that time, the extensive touring had made him homesick. It hadn't. "I love the road," he admits. "I love staying in hotels where other people are making up my bed. I love room service or, as my son would call it, 'food on a tray.' I love that lifestyle." When asked to record the album, he wasn't sure what kind of album he wanted to make; but, when the pen started flowing, he had himself a blues record. "I had this attitude about the blues after leaving Houston that I never wanted to play it again because I was just over it." After nearly two decades of playing just about everything but the blues, he returned home at last.

These days, he spends more time at home in California and with his own blues-based rhythm and soul band, [Phatback, Earl & Me](#). He also teaches a performance class at the Los Angeles College of Music. "I'm teaching them how to play a song. I'm teaching them to play in a way that the lead singer won't want to turn around and throw the microphone at them. Dynamics, feel, that sort of thing."

**"I'm trying to teach these kids not to be the best drummers that they can be but the best musicians that they can be. I feel that that's what Doc was trying to teach me... the maturity of playing."**



With his son, Logan. Photo courtesy of Matthews.



Ned Albright (*Home at Last* producer), saxophonist and close friend Everette Harp (Jazz '79), and Matthews.



Photo by Jacky Sallow.



Photo courtesy of Brad Arnold.













# in.terlude

# BLACK *Month* MUSIC



scan playlist

- 1  POWER (LIVE FROM SUGARHILL STUDIOS) - LENORA
- 2  BE STILL - JALEN BAKER
- 3  FREEDOM SOUND - SHELLEY CARROL
- 4  SWAG - PEYTON
- 5  THE MOTHER - JEREMY DUTTON
- 6  BLACK PEOPLE HAVE BEAUTIFUL HAIR - LEO RAYON II
- 7  JOY IN THE BATTLE - MAJOR
- 8  TAKE YOUR TIME - TAY POWERS
- 9  I AM A DRUMMER FROM TEXAS - HERMAN MATTHEWS
- 10  MORE BOUNCE - SEBASTIAN WHITTAKER





It takes a village! Our successful Homecoming celebration was made possible by our generous sponsors. This month, we're proud to highlight Texan Dental, P.A. and M. J. Anderson & Associates.

# sponsor highlights.



## M. J. Anderson & Associates

~ a Business, Sales & Talent MANAGEMENT company ~

**M. J. Anderson & Associates** has been providing business leadership consulting services since 1993. They cover a wide range of services from business support to human resources to talent management coaching. Specific business offerings include guidance through change management, diversity and inclusion initiatives, HR processes, recruitment and talent acquisition and management, as well as compliance, sales, and marketing process improvements. They cater to large and small businesses, school districts, non-profits, ministry organizations and individuals. Clients have included the City of Houston, Brimstone Consulting, FranklinCovey and Global Novations / Korn Ferry.

Get in contact today by reaching out to Principal Consultant Mignonne Anderson Goode at [MJAndersonAssoc@gmail.com](mailto:MJAndersonAssoc@gmail.com).

**Texan Dental, P.A.** is a Houston based family dentist practice that treats patients of all ages. They perform a wide range of services including checkups, teeth cleaning, crowns, and veneers. Emergency services such as bonding, root canals, crowns, and bridges are also performed. At the core of the office is a local spirit that centers community relationships. All of the professionals at Texan Dental, P. A. maintain the highest levels of accreditation and pursue ongoing education to stay abreast of the latest trends in dentistry.



Dr. Petry, Dr. Dana Raspberry, and the whole staff invite you to schedule an appointment by calling 713-979-4184 to experience why patients think Texan Dental, P.A. is the best dentist in Houston.



**Texan Dental, PA**  
*cosmetic & family dentistry*



# call board.

## OPPORTUNITIES



### LEDBURY POETRY

**POETS:** The 2023 Ledbury Poetry Competition is an international competition open to poets 18 year old or older writing in the English language. The top winners will win a cash prize and invitation to perform their work at the Ledbury Poetry Festival 2024. Entry fee is £6 (\$8 estimated).

**Deadline: July 10, 2023**

Learn more at <https://ledburypoetry.org.uk/home/ledbury-poetry-competition-2023/>

**VISUAL ARTISTS:** Posterheroes is an international contest about social communication that calls for posters about social and environmental issues. The theme for this year is *Beautifully Diverse* where the creative community promotes a new representation of disability.

**Deadline: August 27, 2023**

Learn more at <https://www.posterheroes.org/>



BEAUTIFULLY  
DIVERSE



THE  
ascap  
FOUNDATION

PRIDE IN MUSIC

2023 LGBTQIA+ SCHOLARSHIP

**MUSICIANS:** The ASCAP Foundation Pride in Music Scholarship is a new initiative to benefit undergraduate or graduate students who are members of the LGBTQIA+ community looking to pursue a career in music.

**Deadline: July 7, 2023**

Learn more at [ascapfoundation.org/](https://ascapfoundation.org/)

## RESOURCES

**MUSICIANS:** There are multiple opportunities in higher education at various HBCU music programs that are hiring professors and directors for their vocal and choral programs.

**Deadline: varies**

Learn more at <https://www.drtonymcneill.com/jobs>

**POETS:** The Poetry London Prize is a major, internationally renowned award for a single outstanding poem and submissions are now open! Top 3 prize winners will receive monetary rewards as well as publication in Poetry London. Entry fee is £10 (~\$12.50).

**Deadline: June 30, 2023**

Learn more at [poetrylondon.co.uk/prize/](https://poetrylondon.co.uk/prize/)



# class notes.

straight A's



# a.cknowledgements

**Morgan Harris (Vocal '13)**

Recently elected President of KCU Joplin's Student National Medical Association (*top*).

**Emeka Nwuba (Instrumental '09)**

Published "Within The Clouds," his first book of poetry under the name acEN' heartz (*middle*).

**Fernell Hogan (Theatre '15)**

He and the cast of *Kimberly Akimbo* received a 2023 Tony Award for Best Musical. They were also nominated in 7 other categories (*right*).

**Joy Yvonne Jones (Theatre '10)**

Performed her one-person adaptation of Shakespeare's *Antony and Cleopatra* at the Texas Fringe Festival in Tyler, TX (*far left*)

**Janet Adderley (Theatre '74)**

Celebrated the 30th anniversary of her acclaimed nonprofit organization, The Adderley School for the Performing Arts (*center*).

**Sterling Overshown (Jazz '12)**

Wrote the original music for *Ain't No Mo*, which received 6 Tony nominations, including Best Play (*bottom right*).

**Jarvis Manning Jr. (Vocal '05)**

Appears in *Broadways's Some Like It Hot*, which received 13 Tony nominations, including Best Musical. **Brandon Lee (Instrumental '01)** plays trumpet in the orchestra (*far left*).

**Randy 'WROSIV' Palmer (Visual '10)**

Presented his artwork at NASA's 1st Juneteenth celebration with the Johnson Space Center's first Black director (*middle*).

## congrats, graduates!

Congratulations to all of our seniors who graduated from college or from Kinder HSPVA this year! We are so excited to welcome over 15 alumni to our network and find even more ways to champion this next generation of artists and professionals.

Don't forget to subscribe to our mailing list and follow us on all our social media platforms!

# a.lbums and other music

**MAJOR. (Vocal '02)**

Recently released his new EP entitled *The Hope Of My Soul* (*above*).

**Kendrick Scott (Jazz '98)**

recently premiered his multi-media project "Unearthed" at Houston's DACAMERA. The piece features saxophonist **Walter Smith, III (Instrumental '98)**, artwork by **Robert Hodge (Visual '98)**, and poetry by Deborah D.E.E.P. Mouton (*bottom right*).





**Chelsea Cymone**  
(Vocal '10)

Check out her latest single entitled "Soft Life."



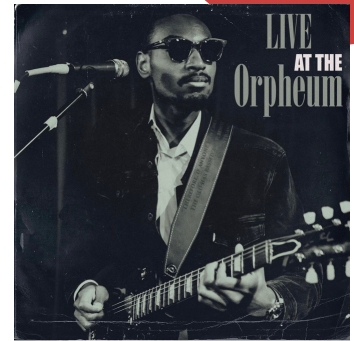
**Jeremy Dutton**  
(Jazz '12)

His debut album *Anyone is Better Than Here* is now available to purchase and stream.



**Samantha Williams**  
(Theatre '16)

Check out her latest single entitled "Ode to Summer"



**Mathias Lattin**  
(Jazz '20)

His latest album, *Live at the Orpheum*, was recorded at the 2023 International Blues Challenge. Stream it now!

## a.ppearances

### Monica Josette (Dance '00)

Featured in *Forward Times* and Houston's LGBT Magazine, *Out Smart*, for her choreography work in Theater Under the Stars' production of *Rent* (top).

### Jared Wayne Gladly (Theatre '05)

Starring in *Nana's Boys*, an intimate film about a Black gay couple. Available for streaming on Showtime (left, pictured right).

### Robert Hodge (Visual '98)

Check out his two solo exhibitions that were inspired by Outkast's *Speakerboxxx/The Love Below* album. The next installation occurs July 14th. On view at the David Shelton Gallery (top right).

### Lisa E. Harris (Vocal '98)

Her current solo exhibition entitled "Unlit: sof landin" is a sound and soft sculpture installation that explores sound as a medium for liberation and resistance. On view at Ballroom Marfa from now until September 16, 2023 (middle left).

### Justin Simien (Theatre '01)

Directed his remake of Disney's *Haunted Mansion*. The film hits theaters next month on July 28th (bottom right).

### Chandler Foreman (Instrumental '15)

She is the newest morning anchor for ABC Big 2 in Odessa, Texas (bottom left).

### Ashitaka Porter (Theatre '19)

Celebrated the first preview of *Here Lies Love*, a new musical on Broadway about former Filipino First Lady Imelda Marcos. Running now through November 19, 2023 (bottom).





# 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.

## 2022-23 creative team



**DENISE WARD**  
President  
Vocal '12



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



**GABBY BYRD**  
Secretary  
Vocal '11



**KIERRA MARTIN**  
Treasurer  
Dance '13



**MALCOLM JACKSON**  
Parliamentarian  
Instrumental '10



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



**JORDAN WOODS**  
Communications Chair  
Dance '13



**EDWARD BELL**  
Engagement Chair  
Vocal '10



**TAYLAR LEWIS**  
Scholarship Chair  
Theatre '11



**ALDARIAN MAYES**  
Jazz '10



**TAWANA HUNTER**  
Vocal '02



**DJ CARR**  
Vocal '18



**CHRISTIAN WARNER**  
Dance '12



**REGINA MORGAN**  
Vocal '10



**DANIELLE KING**  
Theatre '13



**JORDAN GONSALVES**  
Vocal '13



**JUSTIN CUNNINGHAM**  
Instrumental '10



**TERRANCE TURNER**  
Instrumental '10



**JHACOLE DUNN**  
Vocal '94



**STEPHEN HUDSON**  
Vocal '03



**CHANDRA HENSON  
WHITAKER**  
Theatre '96