

the check-in.

PASSING NOTES

For this Back-to-School Issue, Dr. A. Jan Taylor (Vocal '75) joins us for a special conversation about her journey in education as a now-retired collegiate choral director

inside.

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WHO WE ARE




ON THE COVER

Photo courtesy of Dr. Taylor.

 @hspvablackalumninetwork

 @hspvablackalumninetwork

 hspvablackalumninetwork@gmail.com

 linktr.ee/hspvablackalumninetwork

WRITE: Share your thoughts on this issue and anything else PVA-related at hspvablackalumninetwork@gmail.com

Hey Hey, PVA,

I greet you all with love and appreciation. As we prepare to celebrate the momentous occasion of BAN's five-year anniversary, we are filled with so much gratitude for the incredible journey we have embarked upon together.

Since our inception, we have achieved remarkable milestones that have strengthened and celebrated the legacy of Black excellence at HSPVA.

A few highlights include:



- **Scholarships for Deserving Students:** Since 2020, we have awarded nearly \$50,000 in scholarships to deserving students who embody the artistic and academic excellence that define HSPVA.
- **Leadership Through Legacy (LTL) Mentorship Program:** In 2023, LTL was launched to empower students and alumni, fostering leadership and supporting the next generation of HSPVA artists and professionals.
- **Black History Month Scholarship Fundraiser:** We expanded our annual Prelude HSPVA Black History Show fundraiser with *The Wiz Emerald City Experience*, a pre-show celebration that raised over \$35,000. This achievement underscores our commitment to ensuring that financial barriers do not hinder the growth and success of young creatives.
- **50 Years of HSPVA Black Excellence:** In 2022, we came together for an unforgettable three-day homecoming weekend, commemorating 50 years of the HSPVA Gold Standard. The event brought together generations of talented artists, fostering and forging lasting connections and memories.
- **And Much More:** These are just a few highlights among many. Our community's dedication, engagement, and enthusiasm have fueled numerous workshops, events, and initiatives that continue to inspire and promote profound change.

None of these achievements would have been possible without your support. Your contributions, whether through time, resources, or expertise, have been the driving force behind our success. As we move forward, we invite you to continue this journey with us as we collectively shape a brighter and more inclusive future for our beloved community.

Thank you for sticking with us. We can't wait for the journey ahead.

ALL THE BEST,

DENISE WARD

FOUNDER & PRESIDENT

HSPVA BLACK ALUMNI NETWORK

**a note
from the
president**

the commons.

➔ Cocktails & Connection

Join us for Happy Hour as we connect over cocktails and mocktails and celebrate the beginning of the BAN's 5th anniversary year of programming and events.

Location: Trez Bistro & Wine Bar
920 Studemont St, Houston, TX 77007
Date: September 14, 2023
Time: 6 - 8 PM



➔ BAN Night Out w/ Ms. Bonner

We're bringing BAN Night Out to New York! If you're in the NYC area and interested in joining us for lunch with our very special guest, beloved retired HSPVA legend, Ms. Pat Bonner, email us at hspvablackalumninetwork or click here to RSVP. Space is limited.

Location: Bocca di Bacco (Hell's Kitchen)
54th & 9th, New York, NY 10019
Date: September 21, 2023
Time: 12 - 1:30 PM



SAVE THE DATE

➔ BAN'S 5th Anniversary: HTX

We are thrilled to celebrate our 5th Anniversary on Saturday, October 14 in **Houston, TX**. This will be a festive evening that highlights connections, community, and purpose! In the meantime, please mark the date. We are looking forward to celebrating with you!

Date: Saturday, October 14, 2023
DETAILS COMING SOON

➔ BAN'S 5th Anniversary: NYC

With so many alumni around the country, we're bringing the celebration to the East Coast in **New York City, NY**. More details to follow, but mark your calendars for an evening you won't want to miss!

Date: Monday, October 16, 2023
DETAILS COMING SOON

SEPTEMBER 2023

Join **Li(sa) E. Harris (Vocal '98)**, Michelle Coltrane, Joy Guidry, Houston Boychoir and Abijan Johnson on **September 8th** for a “sonic benediction in honor of awakening the AFRAM portal within.” Pay-as-you-wish tickets offered by Diverse Works at MATCH (\$25 suggested). Doors open at 7:30pm. Learn more at lisaeharris.com (right).



Saxophonist **Walter Smith III (Jazz '98)** will be performing at the Reggata Bar Grand Re-Opening in Cambridge, MA on **September 15th** at 7pm and 9pm. Drummer **Eric Harland (Jazz '94)** will be supporting him alongside bassist Harish Raghavan, pianist Kris Davis, and guitarist Matt Stevens.

James Francies (Jazz '13) plays with his trio and saxophonist Immanuel Wilkins the following night on September 16th. Purchase tickets online at regattabarjazz.com/shows

The Biggest Brandon (Vocal '12) will be performing a dynamic fusion of neo-soul, jazz, R&B, hip-hop and classical music at The Houston Piano Company on **September 16th** from 6:15-8pm (left).



During Houston Black Theatre Week, **Joy Yvonne Jones (Theatre '10)** will be performing her original adaptation of Shakespeare's *Antony and Cleopatra* at DeLUXE Theatre on **September 21st** at 7:30pm and on **September 24th** at 3pm. Purchase tickets on Eventbrite (above).

As part of People's Champ, **Starr Busby (Vocal '05)** will be performing for the group's album release show on **September 22nd** at The Sultan Room Rooftop in Brooklyn. Show starts at 7pm (left).

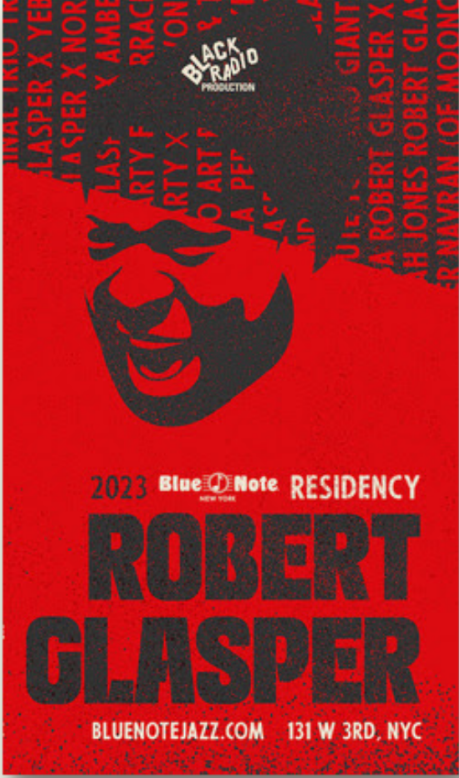
Happenings.



School is officially back in session which means it's time to purchase tickets for **Kinder HSPVA's Music Fest** (formerly known as Spaghetti Supper), the music department's annual fundraiser! From 12:30-6pm on **October 1st**, the community will hear each of the school's music ensembles--over 350 performers! Purchase tickets or make a donation at givebutter.com/MusicFest

Next month marks a major milestone for both BAN and **Robert Glasper (Jazz '97)**! Starting **October 4th** and ending November 5th, Glasper will be performing with various special guests at The Blue Note NYC for the 5th season of his "Robtober" residency. Purchase tickets online at bluenotejazz.com.

GOT SOMETHING HAPPENING SOON?
Let us know and we'll help spread the word! Send us a message on Instagram or email us at hspvablackalumninetwork@gmail.com



At this year's Doc Fest gala honoring retired HSPVA Jazz Department head Robert 'Doc' Morgan, trombonist **Andre Hayward (Jazz*)** will be inducted into the HSPVA Jazz Hall of Fame and drummer **Mark Simmons (Jazz '93)** will perform with pianist Bobby Lyle. Join them at the newly renovated Eldorado Ballroom on **October 15th** at 4pm.

Purchase tickets online at docfestjazz.org/events

happenings.



HSPVA senior photo.



Conducting at the February 2020 "Gospel Spirit" concert featuring the Houston Choral Society and the Prairie View A&M University Concert Chorale. Photos courtesy of Dr. Taylor.

Passing Notes by gabby byrd

CONVERSATION.

This year's back-to-school season marks the end of **Dr. A. Jan Taylor's (Vocal '75)** first year of retirement. Last summer, after 39 years of teaching, she celebrated an illustrious 26-year career as Prairie View A&M University's Director of Choral Music Activities. But before she became the beloved educator, pianist, singer, and award-winning choral conductor she is today, she was known by her peers as Jan Green. Her father was a postman. Her mother, Mrs. Willia Ida Green, was an HISD elementary school teacher who had dreams of becoming either a musician or a photographer. In an interesting turn of events, her two children later obtained those same professions for themselves. With Mrs. Green as her first piano teacher, Jan eventually became the musician. Jan's younger brother became the photographer.

Dr. Taylor grew up in Houston's Third Ward on the heels of the Civil Rights Movement. When she was a student at G.B.M. Turner Elementary, most schools in the city were still segregated. She remembers being taught to read and sing choral music by numbers rather than by solfege (think "Do-re-mi" and that catchy song from *The Sound of Music*). By the time she got to Lanier Middle School, it was one of the schools that was just beginning to integrate. "My class was maybe the second wave of Black students to attend and, even then, there were still probably less than 50," she recalls. "We didn't have eruptions and such, save the TSU riots that year." Although Houston schools integrated slowly and quietly, the culture shock was still inevitable—slow and quiet.

Though Lanier's student body was still majority white at the time, the mixture of other ethnicities was significant enough to foster what Taylor called an "experience in culture." It also helped solidify in her mind what a Mercedes Benz was and, perhaps, what it meant to have one. She noticed that "a lot of the parents were picking up their kids in Mercedes" or having their nannies do the picking up for them. Still, she sensed that the uncertainty caused by the integration process stemmed more from the school's teachers and administration than her classmates. Though she felt welcomed by some, she also felt as though "some teachers didn't think that we belonged there, or that we were even capable of learning in the same way that the white kids did." When HSPVA joined the integration conversation as a new "voluntarily desegregated school" the energy was a little different.

When Jan Green (Taylor) and her best friend at the time, Stephanie Dory, walked into their first HSPVA audition in 1972, it was the second year the school had ever held auditions. Of the two girls—who both sang in choir at Lanier—only one of them actually had intentions to be an HSPVA vocal student: Dory. Green served as her piano accompanist. After all, Green had already auditioned to be Lamar High School's choir accompanist. She had her mind set on attending there in the fall. However, [Jean Galloway \(PVA's first choir director\)](#) advised her to prepare her own audition piece. So, she did. It didn't matter that the school had no formal piano department yet; they had Jean Galloway and Patricia Bonner. She says,

“I had never seen women who could handle choirs, who knew so much about choir, how to teach choral tone, knew so much about repertoire, and then who were so much fun, and who were so caring about the students.”

Her previous music teachers—Vivian Harrison at Turner Elementary and Gloria Gee at MacGregor Elementary—were instrumental to her musical journey, but seeing Ms. Galloway and Ms. Bonner in action is what ultimately steered her career towards choir directing and away from performing as a concert pianist. She didn't stop playing piano though. At that time, PVA's pianists primarily accompanied the vocal ensembles or were selected for the jazz and instrumental groups.



With friends during her junior year at PVA (circa 1974).
Photo courtesy of Dr. Taylor.

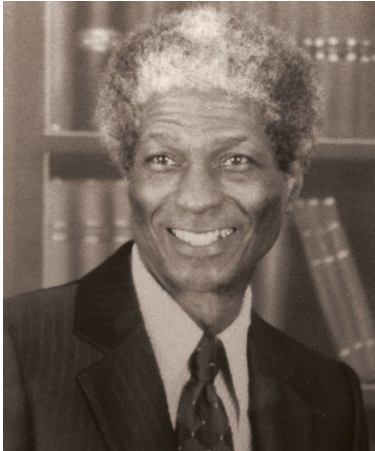


Patricia Bonner and Carole Nelson (retired HSPVA Vocal instructors), Dr. Taylor, and fellow '75 Vocal alum David Whorton at last year's "Encore50" event celebrating the school's 50th Anniversary. Photo by Kathy Anderson.

The year she started classes at PVA and “got the bug” for choral directing was the same year she met her earliest musical mentor: Dr. Clyde Owen Jackson. He and Dory, Taylor's friend from Lanier, were both members at Wheeler Avenue Baptist Church. The church, known for its stellar performances of spirituals as well as major sacred works like Vivaldi's “Gloria” and Handel's “Messiah,” had a sizable population of young adults. To accommodate, the reverend's wife suggested that Jackson form a new youth choir. Knowing that Jackson could use a young accompanist like Jan in the group, Dory introduced the two. Thanks to her, Taylor spent the next 22 years at Wheeler Avenue, accompanying and occasionally directing their choirs. Thanks to Jackson, a lot of the choral repertoire Taylor knows now, she learned before even getting to college.

Like Taylor's father and like many other respectable Black men at the time, Jackson was a postman by occupation. Unlike most, he was also a composer, choir conductor, journalist, newspaper editor, author, and community activist. “A pioneer and a trailblazer in everything that he did,” Taylor adds. By the end of

his 89 years of life, he had become the first Black postmaster of his hometown of Galveston, established the Houston Post Office Chorale, authored eight books, and earned degrees from both the Tuskegee Institute (now University) and Texas Southern University.



Dr. Clyde Own Jackson.

At Tuskegee, Jackson sang in the legendary Tuskegee Institute Choir under William L. Dawson's direction and soon became the composer's "personal assistant and devoted disciple." Dawson specialized in arranging spirituals and other Black religious folk music for choirs and other types of ensembles. According to Taylor, Jackson was "very close to the source in that he knew exactly the performance practices and conventions of those types of pieces." "He heard from William Dawson himself how these pieces were to be performed, and so he in turn passed it on to me," she says, "which I continue to pass on throughout my teaching with students and seminars and lectures and such that I give." Whenever she tried to thank her mentor for his role in her life and professional work, he always used to tell her,

"Just pass it along, daughter." So, that's what she's been doing.

As a lecturer on Negro spirituals, Dr. Taylor works to preserve the music and pass on its legacy through her speaking engagements, academic writing, and choral clinician work. As the director of Prairie View's choir program, Dr. Taylor served with passion and made it her mission to expose her students and audiences to music by "non idiomatic Black choral conductors or composers," a term she says was coined by her friend and composer, Marques L.A. Garrett. Under her direction, the PV Singers and Concert Chorale have performed at several notable concerts, conventions, and festivals both statewide and abroad.



With Marques L.A. Garrett, composer.



With Rosephanye Powell, composer.

Following in the footsteps of Ms. Galloway and Ms. Bonner, Taylor earned her Bachelor of Music degree in Vocal Music Education from the University of Houston. Shortly thereafter, she got married and started pursuing her master's degree at Prairie View (PV). She had considered going to school in Atlanta but, due to the economic downturn caused by the late 70s/early 80s oil crisis, it seemed everyone was trying to make their way to Texas. After PV, she returned to U of H for her Doctor of Musical Arts degree in Choral Conducting. "I always knew I wanted to have a doctorate degree, and U of H had a great program. It made sense, it was right here in the city, and I didn't have to leave and go anywhere else for a great program."

"It was favor, I guess, in that all those things lined up at just the right time and in the right place for me."



Conducting the Voices of Houston and Westminster Jubilee Singers at the 2023 National Association of Negro Musicians Conference in Dallas. Photo courtesy of Dr. Taylor.



At the Grand Ole Opry House with several other conductors of the national 105 Voices of History HBCU Choir (Dr. Taylor pictured in the green scarf). Photo courtesy of Genma Stringer Holmes.

For the first 13 years of her professional teaching career, she taught at various music programs within HISD, in search of the right place for the time. Though most of the time was spent at Johnston Middle School (now Meyerland PVA), Lamar High School—her last HISD post—had potential to be the school from which she would retire. During those early years, she also worked with local organizations like Singing Boys of Houston (now Houston Boychoir) and the Houston Ebony Opera Guild. Later, at concert halls like The Kennedy Center in New York and Nashville's Grand Ole Opry House, she conducted multiple performances by the 105 Voices of History Choir, comprised of students from our country's 105 historically Black colleges and universities (HBCUs).

Since Taylor is a degree holder from both a predominantly white institution (PWI) and an HBCU, I wondered how those experiences differed for her. At U of H, she enjoyed studying under Charles Hausman and learning the art of conducting, but says PV provided a uniquely “nurturing environment,” something that has drawn Black students to HBCUs for over a century. During the Reconstruction Era, when most HBCUs were established, their primary purpose was to provide higher learning institutions for emancipated slaves. As a masters student, Taylor considered PV a “safe place to receive a high quality education without the burdens of racism.” As a PV professor and as founding member of the Lambda Zeta chapter of Sigma Alpha Iota, a music fraternity for women, Taylor played an integral role in creating that nurturing experience for her students and continues to mentor and empower many of her former students today. “It's very rewarding, it's very gratifying, and it's very inspiring to see what young Black musicians are out doing these days and what they aspire to do,” she says. When people remark that her replacement will have hard shoes to fill, she often says, “I have walked away with my shoes and whoever comes next will have an opportunity to make that program their own.”

With the 2019-20 PVAMU Concert Chorale



Reflecting on her tenure, the most challenging part wasn't what she calls the dreaded "year of computer choir." It was staying on top of everything and finding balance.

"There's more to it than just standing in front of the choir and rehearsing and performing. There's the administrative aspect of it, there is the bringing together of individuals and teaching them how to work together as an ensemble, as a community."

"It's juggling other subjects that you teach. It's juggling family life." When Dr. Taylor started pursuing her masters degree, she and her husband were already married with one child and another on the way. Somehow, perhaps with her parents as a blueprint, she made a way out of no way and found the time when it seemed there was no time. "Creativity and performing, that life is not a nine to five," she says, "it's constant."

Since retiring from her collegiate position, Dr. Taylor has been named a recipient of the Texas Choral Directors Association's prestigious Texas Choir Master Award and also been honored with a two-day tribute produced by the Community Artists' Collective and Community Music Center of Houston as part of their [Annual Legacy Project](#). In addition to the solo pieces performed by some of her former students, she particularly enjoyed the choral selections performed by Voices of Houston, a new vocal ensemble in the city. HSPVA alumna Cecily Gordon (Vocal '10) sings soprano in the group. Being recognized in this way by her peers, friends, and former students was both overwhelming and "very, very moving," Taylor says. She couldn't help thinking, "Did I really make that much of a contribution?"

To contribute to the well of wisdom BAN has been working to build for future generations of artists and professionals, Dr. Taylor offers this advice: "If you are an artist or a creative, you must practice and not take it for granted that just because you have this particular talent that the world is going to come searching for you. Practice, study, be prepared for whatever comes along. Prepare for college.

"Whatever area you pursue, practice, study, be prepared."



With her mother, a long-time HISD educator.



Dr. Taylor and Denise Eaton, recipients of the 2023 Texas Choir Master Award.



With Vinroy D. Brown, Jr., conductor of the Westminster Choir College Jubilee Singers.

in.terlude

HIP HOP'S 50TH

Curated by Malcolm Jackson

- 

1 RAPPER'S DELIGHT - SUGARHILL GANG
(S. Robinson-H. Jackson-M. Wright-G. O'Brien) - LONG VERSION -
SUGARHILL GANG
- 

2 PLANET ROCK - AFRIKA BAMBAATAA & THE SOULSONIC FORCE
- 

3 FANTASTIC - SLUM VILLAGE
- 

4 STAKES IS HIGH - DE LA SOUL
- 

5 BLACKER THE BERRY - KENDRICK LAMAR
- 

6 PIMPIN' ALL OVER THE WORLD - LUDACRIS
- 

7 NO PROBLEM - CHANCE THE RAPPER
- 

8 TRIPPY - ANDERSON .PAAK
- 

9 ALWAYS SHINE - ROBERT GLASPER
- 

10 BOUNCE WITH ME - BOW WOW
- 

11 WE DON'T THINK THE SAME - AKILAH NEHANDA
- 

12 THE LIGHT - BIG KRIT
- 

13 EAT (PANDEMIC EXPERIENCE) - TOBE NWIGWE
- 

14 LOST TOUCH - SUBSTANTIAL
- 

15 PLANET ROCK POSTSCRIPT - JASON MORAN

The number 5 has been a common number as of late, from HSPVA's recent 50th Anniversary to BAN's 5th Anniversary steadily approaching. In this issue, we celebrate another anniversary: Hip Hop's 50th.

Check out this playlist of influential songs from the culture as well as some alumni contributions to it.



scan playlist

sponsor highlights.

Learn more about Harrisburg Homes and SNR Creative, two of the sponsors that helped make The Wiz Emerald City Experience a success!



Shonna Speer, owner.



HARRISBURG
HOMES

SNR Creative is a marketing consultancy firm based in Houston, TX. With over 18+ years of experience, they have helped clients across industries and across the United States. They offer a full range of marketing services from business communications to business development to business transformation. You can peruse their blog for marketing insight and inspiration. You can also view their library of high profile case studies that include Houston's Energy Corridor, the Houston Public Library, and the prestigious MacArthur Foundation.

Get in touch by emailing info@snr-creative.com.

Harrisburg Homes is a homebuilder based in Houston and the surrounding areas. With over 20+ years of experience, they touch every part of the process from building your home to buying it to selling it. They have designed and built quality custom homes across Texas since 2014. With their signature Texas hospitality, they help families with everything from finding a lot in their desired area to obtaining financial guidance from a preferred lender and property brokerage to warranty services. They are masters of their craft, ensuring that their processes are met with the highest standards required to construct a custom home.

Let Harrisburg represent you as you find your perfect home. Get in touch by emailing info@harrisburgtx.com.



Shavonnah Roberts Schreiber, Founder and CEO of SNR Creative.



SNR CREATIVE

call board.

RESOURCES

ARTS COLLEGE FAIR: Students and parents do not want to miss the College Fair for the Performing and Visual Arts at Rice University on **September 20th** (7 - 9 pm). This college fair is open to all high school students, particularly 10th and 11th graders interested in attending college for music, art, drama, or dance.

Learn more at music.rice.edu/admissions or [register here](#)

OPPORTUNITIES



FILMMAKERS: Black Film Space is partnering with cliveRd, a studio focused on producing and building in media, on a Proof of Concept Short Film Grant. They are seeking one short film script under 15 minutes/pages that aims to serve as a teaser/preview for a feature film or episodic series. \$35 application fee. \$9,000 grant total.

Deadline: September 26, 2023

Learn more at blackfilmspace.com/cliverd

THESPIANS: The Telsey Office, in partnership with Lin-Manuel Miranda and the Miranda Family Fund, is now accepting applications for the second class of The Telsey Office Miranda Family Casting Fellowship.

Deadline: September 29, 2023

Learn more at thetelseyoffice.com

the
telsey
office



COMPOSERS: The Ember Ablaze Composer Lab in New York is now accepting submissions for their Composer-in-Residence Program. The Lab aims to support young composers, provide opportunities for experimentation, and promote contemporary music and living composers. They will select one composer from each category: ages 13-21 and ages 22-35.

Deadline: October 15, 2023

Learn more at emberarts.org/ember-ablaze-composer-lab

call board.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

BECOME A BAN VOLUNTEER!

We are looking for dedicated and reliable individuals to commit to the following volunteer roles:

- Event Volunteers
- Alumni Mentors
- BAN Interns (*open to current Kinder HSPVA students or college alumni*)

Sign up below or complete the form at tinyurl.com/BANvolunteers

[CLICK HERE](#)

Want to know more? Email us at hspvablackalumninetwork@gmail.com



Want to share information about job postings, casting notices, and scholarship opportunities?

WRITE US!

Want to promote your small business here in *The Check-In* newsletter?

WRITE US!

hspvablackalumni@gmail.com

Want to donate concessions items for this year's Black History Show?

WRITE US!

class notes.

straight A's

a.cknowledgements



Danielle King (Theatre '13)

Worked as a casting associate for the now Emmy nominated show *Only Murders in the Building* (top).

Ryan Francisco (Theatre '07)

Recently earned a new position as Senior Engagement Manager at the Bayou Preservation Association (left).

Jeremy Dutton (Jazz '12)

The UK's, *Jazzwise Magazine*, gave his debut album, *Anyone is Better Than Here* a 4 star review and made the "Editor's Choice" pick list for the September issue (right).

Everette Harp (Jazz '79) and Christopher Troy (Jazz '83)

With Harp's group, Jazz Funk Soul, he opened for Morris Day and The Time and Dave Koz's Summer Horns at the 2023 Forever Summer Hollywood Bowl. Troy, formerly Trahan, currently plays keys in The Time (middle and far left).

Brandon Jerrod (Instrumental '08)

In celebration of Fat Liberation Month, they participated as a speaker in the webinar series, "Superfat Perspectives: Supporting the Fattest in Our Communities," produced by the National Association to Advance Fat Acceptance

Jared Wayne Gladly (Theatre '05)

Performed at The Soapbox Sessions x Afropunk in Brooklyn, NYC. (middle).

Alexandria DeWalt (Instrumental '17) and Tanner Ellis (Theatre '14)

At The Ensemble Theatre's 47th annual gala, both were honored with the organization's 2023 Rising Star Award (middle and far right).

Scottie Smith (Instrumental '05)

As CEO of Shekinah Legacy Holdings and in partnership with his family foundation, he announced a \$1.5 million initiative aimed at empowering the South Dallas community with knowledge and opportunities in the real estate sector (bottom left).

Marcus Willis (Dance '03)

Appointed the new Artistic Director at Phoenix Dance Theatre (bottom right)

alumni educators,

Welcome back to school! We know that each new year brings new challenges, and we appreciate your continued commitment to our future. From all of us at BAN, we send you best wishes for a safe and productive school year!

Know an alum whose name should be listed here?

Email us at hspvablackalumninetwork@gmail.com or send us a direct message on Facebook or Instagram

a.lbums and other music news



Paul Cornish (Jazz '14)
Wrote and played keys on Terrace Martin and James Fauntleroy's latest release, *Nova*.



Gabby Byrd (Vocal '11)
Contributed vocals for the *Street Fighter VI* video game.



Ashley Tamar Davis (Vocal '98)
Worked as music supervisor for both Hulu's *Trap Jazz* movie and their new show, *The Conversation Project*.



Jalen Baker (Jazz '13)
Starting on September 8th, he and his group begin their South East album release tour for *Be Still*. Catch them in a city near you!

Want to support our musical family?

Consider purchasing albums by your favorite alum on the next Bandcamp Friday, October 6th! When you do, an average of 93% of your money reaches the artist/label.

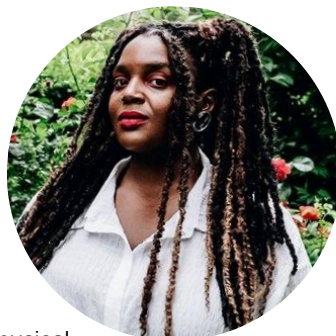
a.ppearances



Judith Franklin (Vocal '97)
Cast in the ensemble of Broadway's *The Wiz*. The national pre-Broadway tour kicks off on September 23rd in Baltimore, where the show was first performed (*left*).



Allen Gilmore (Theatre '76)
During this season of The Classical Theatre of Harlem's Uptown Shakespeare in the Park series, Gilmore starred as lead in their production of *Malvolio* (*above*).



Starr Busby (Vocal '05)
Co-composed and starred in (*pray*), a musical coming to Ars Nova @ Greenwich House (NYC) and playing from September 23 - October 28. Name your price tickets on sale now (*above*).

Know an alum whose name should be listed here?

Email us at hspvablackalumninetwork@gmail.com or send us a direct message on Facebook or Instagram

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.

2023-24 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