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SPECIAL "BEBOP TO HIP-HOP" CONCERT IN LOS ANGELES

**FEATURING HERBIE HANCOCK, TERENCE BLANCHARD,
DJ SPARK, YOYO, AND OTHER TOP JAZZ AND HIP-HOP ARTISTS**

Thursday, April 21, 2005 at 9:00am
Washington Preparatory High School

Performance to be taped for national broadcast on BET

Sponsored by Pepsi

The Thelonious Monk Institute of Jazz, the world's leading jazz education organization, will present a concert at Washington Preparatory High School in South Central Los Angeles on Thursday morning April 21, 2005 at 9:00am featuring students from their "BeBop to Hip-Hop" program performing with leading jazz and hip-hop artists. This event will showcase the work of young artists who have participated in a groundbreaking music education collaboration between the Los Angeles Unified School District and the Thelonious Monk Institute of Jazz. Legendary jazz pianist and 10 time Grammy Award winner Herbie Hancock, along with world renowned jazz trumpeter and composer Terence Blanchard, will be on hand with hip-hop artists DJ Spark, YoYo, and other special guests for this extraordinary concert. This event and the "BeBop to Hip-Hop" program are made possible through a generous grant from the Pepsi-Cola Company.

"BeBop to Hip-Hop" is one of the most innovative new public school music education programs in America. For the past year, jazz and hip-hop students have studied with professional jazz and hip-hop artists in a special daily class devoted to studying the musical dynamics of both forms of music along with the historical influence of jazz on hip-hop. Through their studies, the Thelonious Monk Institute of Jazz has provided an educational experience that encourages these young artists to create a new sound that incorporates a combination of both musical genres.

During the past school year, 25 students from Washington Preparatory High School have worked together during the regular school day to compose experimental pieces combining the best of both art forms. As a part of the program, jazz and hip-hop instructors introduced the high school students to the latest recording technologies and software. The jazz students have learned to produce sounds that are more cutting edge,



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and to incorporate the hip-hop groove into jazz. The hip-hop students have learned how to create and record in a live environment along with incorporating jazz into the hip-hop groove. Both sets of students have learned skills needed in the jazz world such as composition, music theory, arranging, and improvisation, along with skills associated with hip-hop such as lyric writing, turntable scratching, and sampling. As a group, the students have developed a series of songs, demonstrating elements of both jazz and hip-hop, and have rehearsed and recorded many of these tunes.

By all accounts, this first “Bebop to Hip-Hop” program was an unqualified success and has greatly influenced the musical skills of the students. Thursday’s special musical presentation at Washington Preparatory High School will highlight the original and spontaneous work that has resulted from this groundbreaking collaboration.

About the Institute

The Thelonious Monk Institute of Jazz (www.monkinstitute.org) is a non-profit education organization established in memory of Thelonious Monk, the legendary jazz pianist and composer. Monk believed the best way to learn jazz was from a master of the music. The Institute follows that same philosophy by bringing together the greatest living jazz musicians to teach and inspire young people. The Institute offers the most promising young musicians college level training by America's jazz masters and presents public school-based jazz education programs for people around the world. Helping to fill the tremendous void in arts education left by severe budget cuts in public school funding, the Institute’s programs are provided free to the public and use jazz as the medium to encourage imaginative thinking, creativity, a positive self-image, and respect for one’s own and others' cultural heritage.

WHEN: **Thursday April 21, 2005 at 9:00-10:00am**
Audience must be seated by 8:45am, due to taping of BET broadcast.

WHERE: **Washington Preparatory High School auditorium**
10860 S. Denker Avenue
Los Angeles, CA 90047

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