



THELONIOUS MONK
INSTITUTE OF JAZZ

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Contact:
Sarah Andrew Wilson
swilson@monkinstitute.org
202.364.7272 or 202.680.2420

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THOUSANDS OF KENTUCKY PUBLIC SCHOOL STUDENTS TO PARTICIPATE IN "JAZZ IN AMERICA" EDUCATION PROGRAMS

Washington, DC -- With generous support from the National Endowment for the Arts, the Thelonious Monk Institute of Jazz, a non-profit educational organization, will introduce its *Jazz in America: The National Jazz Curriculum* to thousands of public school students in Kentucky. *Jazz in America* (www.jazzinamerica.org) is the Institute's Internet-based jazz curriculum that is being made available to all 5th, 8th, and 11th grade public school students in the United States. It is the first jazz curriculum to use state-of-the-art Internet technology, is offered free of charge on a national basis, and is designed to be a regular part of each school's social studies or American history classes.

In the Institute's first visit to Kentucky, the tour will consist of a series of jazz assembly programs, jazz band clinics, vocal master classes, and teacher training workshops. Each assembly program will feature a five-piece jazz combo led by internationally renowned saxophonist Bobby Watson, a presentation called "What is Jazz?" by J.B. Dyas, Curriculum Project Director, and a question-and-answer session with students. In addition, jazz drummer Thelonious Monk, Jr., Chairman of the Institute's Board of Trustees, will make remarks about jazz and its role as America's greatest musical contribution to the world.

Members of the press are invited to attend any of the following events:

Monday, May 9: LEXINGTON

Lafayette High School, 400 Reed Lane
12:30-1:30pm Jazz Band Clinic in band room
12:30-1:30pm Vocal Master Class in choir room
2:00-3:00pm Assembly Program for 600 students in auditorium

Tuesday, May 10: FRANKFORT

Franklin County High School, 1100 E. Main Street
9:00-10:00am Assembly Program for 900 students in gymnasium
10:20-11:15am Jazz Band Clinic in band room
10:20-11:15am Vocal Master Class in choir room
Elkhorn Middle School, 1060 E. Main Street
2:00-3:00pm Assembly Program for 700 students in cafeteria

Wednesday, May 11: LOUISVILLE

Meyzeek Middle School, 828 S. Jackson Street
8:50-9:50am Assembly Program for 800 students in gymnasium
YPAS (Youth Performing Arts School), 120 W. Lee Street
1:15-2:15pm Assembly Program for 850 students in auditorium
2:45-3:45pm Jazz Band Clinic in Polly St. Clair Hall



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Members of the press are invited to attend any of the following events (continued):

Thursday, May 12: LOUISVILLE

Atherton High School, 3000 Dundee Road

12:30-1:30pm Assembly Program for 1,000 students in auditorium

1:45-3:00pm Jazz Band Clinic in band room

Friday, May 13: LOUISVILLE

Central High School, 1130 W. Chestnut Street

8:30-9:30am Assembly Program for 1,000 students in auditorium

About the Curriculum

The *Jazz in America* curriculum (www.jazzinamerica.org) presents an introduction to jazz as it evolved in America and spread throughout the world. It defines the characteristics of jazz, explains how to listen to the music, details the many styles of jazz, and highlights some of the musicians who have advanced the art form. The curriculum also focuses on the development of jazz in America by highlighting the major cities that influenced the music. Further, each lesson plan explores the social, economic, and political contexts within which jazz evolved. In addition to the lesson plans, the curriculum website includes a teacher's manual, assessments, and a comprehensive Jazz Resource Library.

About the Musicians

The tour will be headlined by internationally renowned saxophonist and recording artist Bobby Watson (www.bobbywatson.com), who rose to prominence as a member of Art Blakey's Jazz Messengers, and will feature vocalist Lisa Henry, a winner of the Thelonious Monk International Jazz Vocals Competition. The members of the rhythm section are Danny Grissett, piano; Derek Nievergelt, bass; and Otis Brown III, drums. Brown attended the Thelonious Monk Institute Jazz Colony in Aspen, Colorado in the summer of 1999. Nievergelt and Grissett are graduates (1999 and 2001, respectively) of the Thelonious Monk Institute of Jazz Performance at the University of Southern California, a specialized graduate level college program that enables the world's most gifted young musicians to study tuition-free with the greatest living jazz legends including Herbie Hancock, Wayne Shorter, and Clark Terry.

About the Thelonious Monk Institute of Jazz

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 education 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.