FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
May 16, 2013

Contact: JB Dyas: jbdyas@monkinstitute.org
323.270.3904 (cell); 310.284.8200 (office)

HOUSTON’S HIGH SCHOOL FOR THE PERFORMING AND VISUAL ARTS ONE OF TWO SCHOOLS NATIONWIDE SELECTED TO PARTICIPATE IN NEA NATIONAL PEER-TO-PEER EDUCATION PROGRAM

HOUSTON STUDENTS TRAVEL TO INDIANAPOLIS MAY 20-24 TO SHARE MUSIC, IDEAS WITH PEERS FEATURING INTERNATIONALLY RENOWNED RECORDING ARTISTS ANTONIO HART AND LISA HENRY

Los Angeles, CA – Houston’s High School for the Performing and Visual Arts (HSPVA) was one of two schools nationwide selected by the Thelonious Monk Institute of Jazz to participate in a national “Peer-to-Peer Education” tour. With lead funding from the National Endowment of the Arts, six exceptionally gifted music students from Houston’s premier performing arts high school will present “jazz informances” in Indianapolis public schools May 20-24. Combining performance with information, the sextet will perform with internationally acclaimed jazz saxophonist and GRAMMY nominee Antonio Hart, vocal sensation and former winner of the Thelonious Monk Institute International Jazz Vocals Competition Lisa Henry, and renowned jazz educator Dr. J.B. Dyas. Each school visit will include an assembly program featuring a musical performance for all students, followed by jazz workshops for each school’s jazz band and choir with the visiting student performers playing alongside and sharing ideas with their Indianapolis counterparts. National Endowment for the Arts Jazz Master David Baker, an Indianapolis native and graduate of Crispus Attucks High School, will join the musicians for a special performance at his alma mater on May 22.

“As young people are so influenced by kids their own age, who better to expose them to this great American art form than those of their own generation?” said Thelonious Monk, Jr., Chairman of the Institute’s Board of Trustees and son of legendary jazz pianist and composer Thelonious Monk. “And when you hear how great these young kids play, you know the future of our music is in good hands.”

Besides playing jazz at a level that belies their years, the students will talk with their Indianapolis peers about what jazz is, why it’s important to America, and how a jazz ensemble represents a perfect democracy. They also will discuss important American values that jazz represents: teamwork, freedom with responsibility, unity with ethnic diversity, the correlation of hard work and goal accomplishment, and the importance of finding a passion early in life, being persistent, and believing in yourself. When young people hear this important message from kids their same age, they are more likely to listen.

The six Houston students selected to participate in the Indianapolis tour include drummer Jalon Archie, 18; trumpeter Adam DeWalt, 18; guitarist Jeremy Dorsey, 17; pianist James Francies, 17; bassist John Kozzin, 17; and saxophonist Jyron Walls, 18. “The group has grown so much from learning Antonio Hart’s music,” said Warren Sneed, HSPVA’s director of jazz studies and one of the top tenor saxophonists in Houston. “It covers the full gamut: blues, swing, bebop, and modern.”

Immediately following the informances, Hart, Henry, and Dyas will conduct jazz workshops for each host school’s jazz band and choir in which the visiting students will play with their Indianapolis counterparts side-by-side, providing tutelage peer to peer. In so doing, they will teach and learn from one another not unlike Thelonious Monk did with his fellow musicians during the bebop era some 70 years ago. They’ll also learn about each other’s cities and culture.

“The best part will be hanging out and playing jazz with kids our own age from Indianapolis,” exclaimed Francies, a member of the 2013 National GRAMMY High School Jazz Ensemble. “We know that Indianapolis, especially Indianapolis Avenue, is so important in the history of jazz.” Indeed, such jazz luminaries as David Baker, Slide Hampton, Freddie Hubbard, J.J. Johnson, and Wes Montgomery hail from the Circle City.

The weeklong tour will conclude with a concert open to the public on May 24 at the world famous Jazz Kitchen, 5377 N. College Ave., where Indianapolis residents and visitors are invited to enjoy an evening of music with Hart and Henry alongside jazz’s future “young lions.” The octet will perform standards, jazz classics and contemporary jazz, including compositions from Hart’s and Henry’s latest CD releases. Shows begin at 7:30 and 9:30 PM. For more information, visit www.thejazzkitchen.com or call 317-253-4900.
ABOUT THE ARTISTS & EDUCATORS

**Antonio Hart** is one of the top alto saxophonists on the scene today. Born and raised in Baltimore, Hart was classically trained at the Baltimore School for the Arts, studied jazz at the Berklee College of Music in Boston, and later earned his Master’s degree in Music Composition and Performance at Queens College in New York. While at Berklee, he teamed up with classmate Roy Hargrove, with whom he would later tour the world and make a number of critically acclaimed recordings. In 1991, Hart made his debut recording as a leader with *For the First Time* on RCA/Novus. He has since gone on to appear on more than 100 albums and perform around the globe with such eminent jazz artists as Nat Adderley, Monty Alexander, Terence Blanchard, Dee Dee Bridgewater, Ray Brown, Cyrus Chestnut, Dizzy Gillespie, Slide Hampton, Jimmy Heath, Dave Holland, Christian McBride, Wallace Roney, SF Jazz Collective, McCoy Tyner, and Nancy Wilson. Hart was nominated for a GRAMMY for Best Jazz Instrumental Solo for his recording, *Here I Stand*. Besides being an internationally acclaimed performer and prolific composer, Hart is a renowned educator and enjoys working with up-and-coming young jazz artists. He currently serves as Professor of Jazz Studies at the Aaron Copland School of Music at Queens College. [www.antoniohart.com](http://www.antoniohart.com)

**Lisa Henry** is a dynamic vocalist with a combination of swingin’ cool and down home class. A Kansas City native, she began by singing gospel music in the Baptist church, and by age 12 was singing the music of Billie Holiday and Miles Davis. Henry was a winner of the 1994 Thelonious Monk International Jazz Vocals Competition and was later named an International Jazz Ambassador to Africa. She toured Chile, Argentina, and Peru with the Institute in 1998, performing for 34 Heads of State at the Summit of the Americas. In 2006 she participated in a U.S. State Department-sponsored tour of India, and in 2007 she performed for an esteemed presidential dinner at the White House celebrating the Institute’s 20th Anniversary. Over the past 15 years, Henry has toured the globe, sharing the stage with such artists as Kenny Barron, Gerald Clayton, Kenny Garrett, Herbie Hancock, Roy Hargrove, Antonio Hart, Ingrid Jensen, Kevin Mahogany, Christian McBride, TS Monk, Lou Rawls, Wayne Shorter. Terell Stafford, Clark Terry, and Bobby Watson. Her latest recording, *Live from 18th and Vine*, has received critical acclaim. [www.lisahenryjazz.com](http://www.lisahenryjazz.com)

**Dr. J.B. Dyas** has been a leader in jazz education for the past two decades. Formerly the Executive Director of the Brubeck Institute, Dyas currently serves as Vice President for Education and Curriculum Development at the Thelonious Monk Institute of Jazz in Los Angeles. He oversees the Institute’s education and outreach programs including *Jazz In America: The National Jazz Curriculum* ([www.jazzinamerica.org](http://www.jazzinamerica.org)), one of the most significant and wide-reaching jazz education initiatives in the world. Throughout his career, Dyas has performed across the country, taught students at every level, directed large and small ensembles, developed and implemented new jazz curricula, and written for national music publications. He has served on the Smithsonian Institution’s Task Force for Jazz Education in America and presented numerous jazz education events nationwide with such artists as Dave Brubeck and Herbie Hancock. Dyas received his Master’s degree in Jazz Pedagogy from the University of Miami and PhD in Music Education from Indiana University, and is a recipient of the *DownBeat* Achievement Award for Jazz Education.

ABOUT THE THELONIOUS MONK INSTITUTE OF JAZZ

The Thelonious Monk Institute of Jazz is a nonprofit education organization established in memory of Thelonious Monk, the legendary jazz pianist and composer. Monk was one of the primary architects of bebop and his impact as both performer and composer has had a profound influence on every genre of music. He 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, offering the most promising young musicians college level training by world-renowned jazz masters through its fellowship program in *Jazz Performance* at the UCLA Herb Alpert School of Music in Los Angeles, and presenting public school-based jazz education programs around the world. Helping to fill the tremendous void in arts education left by 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. Jazz great *Herbie Hancock* serves as the Institute’s chairman. [www.monkinstitute.org](http://www.monkinstitute.org)

ABOUT THE NATIONAL PERFORMING ARTS HIGH SCHOOL JAZZ PROGRAM

The Institute’s *National Performing Arts High School Jazz Program* has been designed to facilitate the education of gifted music students who are currently attending public performing arts high schools across the nation. The Program offers them the opportunity to participate in a pre-conservatory, highly specialized performance-based jazz curriculum, study with some of the world’s most eminent jazz artists and educators, perform in a jazz combo comprised of their peers, and prepare for entry into the country’s most distinguished conservatories and university schools of music. Included is instruction in Jazz Improvisation, Theory, Composition, History, and Styles and Analysis. The Institute works with each school in developing jazz curricula and instructional methodology; provides ongoing private and group instruction with Institute teaching staff and visiting artists and educators; offers special residences with jazz masters; and arranges high-profile performance opportunities for the student ensembles.
ABOUT THE PEER-TO-PEER JAZZ EDUCATION INITIATIVE
Through the national Peer-to-Peer Jazz Education Initiative, funded in part by the National Endowment for the Arts, the Institute provides jazz combos comprised of music students from selected public performing arts high schools across the nation with weeklong peer-to-peer jazz performance tours. The young musicians gain invaluable performance experience playing alongside internationally acclaimed artists while they, in turn, help educate young audiences in public schools throughout the U.S. about jazz, America’s indigenous musical art form.

ABOUT THE HIGH SCHOOL FOR THE PERFORMING AND VISUAL ARTS
Located in the Montrose cultural district of Houston, Texas, the High School for the Performing and Visual Arts (HSPVA) is a tuition-free, fully accredited public high school that offers specialized instruction in dance, music, theatre, visual arts, and creative writing, in addition to a rigorous academic curriculum. Its students, selected by audition or portfolio review, have received national recognition as Presidential Scholars in the Arts, finalists in the National YoungArts Competition, and participants in the National GRAMMY Jazz Ensemble. Serving 700 students in grades 9-12, HSPVA has received numerous awards and citations, including the prestigious Rockefeller Award for Excellence in Arts Education. It has been nationally recognized as a Blue Ribbon School and was recently ranked in the top 250 high schools nationwide by U.S. News & World Report. The school’s principal is Dr. Scott Allen. Warren Sneed serves as Director of Jazz Studies. www.hspva.org.

HSPVA Jazz Sextet

From left to right: Adam DeWalt, 18; Jyron Walls, 18; Jalon Archie, 18; James Francies, 17; John Koozin, 17; Jeremy Dorsey, 17
# Indianapolis Peer-to-Peer Jazz Information and Workshop Schedule

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Location</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Monday, May 20</td>
<td>Assembly Program</td>
<td>9:00 AM</td>
<td>Broad Ripple Magnet High School for the Arts 1115 Broad Ripple Ave., Indianapolis, IN 46220 Michael Akers, Principal (317-693-5700)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Jazz Band &amp; Vocal Workshops</td>
<td>10:30 AM</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tuesday, May 21</td>
<td>Assembly Program</td>
<td>9:00 AM</td>
<td>Northwest High School 5525 West 34th St., Indianapolis, IN 46224 Phyllis Barnes, Principal (317-693-5600)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Jazz Band &amp; Vocal Workshops</td>
<td>10:30 AM</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>* Wednesday, May 22</td>
<td>Assembly Program</td>
<td>9:00 AM</td>
<td>Crispus Attucks Medical Magnet High School 1140 Dr. Martin Luther King St., Indianapolis, IN 46202 Stephanie Nixon, Principal (317-226-2800)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Jazz Band &amp; Vocal Workshops</td>
<td>10:45 AM</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thursday, May 23</td>
<td>Jazz Band &amp; Vocal Workshops</td>
<td>10:45 AM</td>
<td>Shortridge Magnet High School for Law/Public Policy 3401 N. Meridian St., Indianapolis, IN 46208 Stan Law, Principal (317-226-2810)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Assembly Program</td>
<td>1:15 PM</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Friday, May 24</td>
<td>Concert Open to the Public</td>
<td>12:15 PM</td>
<td>Indianapolis Artsgarden, Arts Council of Indianapolis 110 W. Washington St., Indianapolis, IN 46204 Mike Prusa, Artsgarden Director (317-624-2565)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Concert Open to the Public (Two Shows)</td>
<td>7:30 PM</td>
<td>The Jazz Kitchen 5377 N. College Ave., Indianapolis, IN 46220 David Allee, Proprietor (317-253-4900)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>9:30 PM</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**EDITORS:**

* Media Day/Press Concert with special guest jazz icon and Crispus Attucks High School alumnus David Baker: Wednesday, May 22, 9:00 AM, hosted by Crispus Attucks Medical Magnet High School, 1140 Dr. Martin Luther King St., Indianapolis, IN 46202 (317-226-2800).

For more information, full-length bios, and photos, or to schedule an interview with one of the artists and/or students, please contact: JB Dyas at jbdyas@monkinstitute.org or 323-270-3904.