



GRAMMY FOUNDATION®

For Immediate Release

THE GRAMMY FOUNDATION® SELECTS STUDENTS FROM ACROSS THE NATION TO PARTICIPATE IN THE PRESTIGIOUS GRAMMY® JAZZ ENSEMBLES PROGRAM

SANTA MONICA, Calif. (Nov. 25, 2008) — The GRAMMY Foundation® announced today that **30 talented high school students** from across the United States have been selected for positions in the **2009 GRAMMY® Jazz Ensembles**. Their selection launches them into the spotlight surrounding the 51st Annual GRAMMY® Awards, and provides them with unparalleled opportunities to perform in front of some of music's biggest names. Since 1993, the GRAMMY Foundation has provided students with this extraordinary musical experience. The students, representing 23 cities and 13 states, will travel to Los Angeles for a weeklong musical adventure under the direction of Justin DiCioccio of the Manhattan School of Music and Dr. Ron McCurdy of the University of Southern California Thornton School of Music.

The Ensembles will perform at various GRAMMY Week events including **public performances at Spaghettini's Italian Grill & Jazz Club** on Feb. 2, 2009, and **the Vic** on Feb. 4. For the first time ever, the Ensembles will perform at the **MusiCares® Person of the Year** tribute on Feb. 6, which this year will honor Neil Diamond. As a grand finale, they will attend the **51st Annual GRAMMY Awards** on Feb. 8 as guests of The Recording Academy® and will perform at the **GRAMMY Celebration®** After Party.

"The GRAMMY Jazz Ensembles program is unique in that it brings together exceptionally talented vocalists and instrumentalists from high schools across the country to form a jazz choir, combo and band," said GRAMMY Foundation and Recording Academy President/CEO Neil Portnow. "These young people come to Los Angeles to play with their peers and GRAMMY-nominated and GRAMMY-winning artists at a range of GRAMMY Week events. Many say it is one of the most powerful and influential opportunities ever and truly a once-in-a-lifetime experience."

The GRAMMY Jazz Ensembles selectees are eligible for more than \$2 million in college scholarships made possible through the GRAMMY Foundation's college partners: Berklee College of Music, Manhattan School of Music, The New School for Jazz and Contemporary Music, and USC Thornton School of Music. In addition, every GRAMMY Jazz Ensembles program applicant and their high school will receive music product from MakeMusic Inc., including a 90-day subscription to SmartMusic®, the complete music practice system by MakeMusic, Inc. Additionally, each selectee's school will receive a professional cymbal courtesy of the Zildjian Company.

The GRAMMY Foundation was established in 1989 to cultivate the understanding, appreciation and advancement of the contribution of recorded music to American culture — from the artistic and technical legends of the past to the still unimagined musical breakthroughs of future generations of music professionals. The Foundation accomplishes this mission through programs and activities that engage the music industry and cultural community as well as the general public. The Foundation works in partnership year-round with The Recording Academy® to bring national attention to important issues such as the value and impact of music and arts education and the urgency of preserving our rich cultural heritage. For more information, please visit www.grammyintheschools.com.

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2009 GRAMMY Jazz Ensembles

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The 2009 GRAMMY Jazz Ensembles are listed by each student's name, hometown, school, and instrument or voice:

2009 GRAMMY Jazz Choir

McKenna	Whisler	Pittsburgh	Pittsburgh CAPA High School	Soprano
Olivia	Harris	Dallas	Booker T. Washington HSPVA	Soprano
Jazzmeia	Horn	Dallas	Booker T. Washington HSPVA	Alto
Amanda	Kunz	Renton, Wash.	Homeschooled	Alto
Taylor	Daniel	Germantown, Tenn.	Germantown High School	Tenor
Andre	Brown	Pittsburgh	Pittsburgh CAPA High School	Tenor
Michael	Mayo	Van Nuys, Calif.	Los Angeles County High School for the Arts	Bass
Ben	Lusher	Dobbs Ferry, N.Y.	The Masters School	Bass

2009 GRAMMY Jazz Combo

Noah	Kellman	Fayetteville, N.Y.	Manlius Pebble Hill High School	Piano
Kate	Davis	West Linn, Ore.	West Linn High School	Bass
Armand	Hirsch	New York	Trevor Day School	Guitar
Alex	Nash	San Francisco	San Francisco School of the Arts	Drums

2009 GRAMMY Jazz Band

Aaron	Johnson	Portland, Ore.	Homeschooled	Alto Sax
Braxton	Cook	Silver Spring, Md.	Springbrook High School	Alto Sax
Sam	Crowe	Denver	Denver School of the Arts	Tenor Sax 1
Matt	Knoegel	Southington, Conn.	Southington High School	Tenor Sax 2
Leonardo	Pellegrino	Pittsburgh	Pittsburgh CAPA High School	Bari Sax
William	Aukstik	Lombard, Ill.	Benet Academy	Trumpet
Joshua	Gawel	Douglassville, Pa.	Daniel Boone Area High School	Trumpet
Benny	Benack	Pittsburgh	Upper St. Clair High School	Trumpet
Nick	Frenay	Syracuse, N.Y.	Manlius Pebble Hill High School	Trumpet
Ivan	Rosenberg	New York	Fiorello H. LaGuardia High School of Music & Art and Performing Arts	Trumpet
Josh	Holcomb	Woodhaven, N.Y.	Fiorello H. LaGuardia High School of Music & Art and Performing Arts	Trombone 1
Tyler	Ginsberg	Metairie, La.	New Orleans Center for Creative Arts	Trombone 2
Natalie	Cressman	San Francisco	San Francisco School of the Arts	Trombone 3
Jacob	Kraft	Rancho Cucamonga, Calif.	Los Osos High School	Bass Trombone
Luke	Celenza	Bedford, N.Y.	Fox Lane High School	Piano
Raviv	Markowitz	Lexington, Mass.	Lexington High School	Bass
Alden	Harris-McCoy	Portland, Ore.	Lincoln High School	Guitar
Ethan	Kogan	Wilmette, Ill.	New Trier Township High School	Drums

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