



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Thelonious Monk Institute of Jazz Performance Students Tour Phoenix Public Schools and Perform at The Nash 3rd Anniversary Celebration in Jazz Tour, Oct. 17–21

Multiple GRAMMY Award-winning Jazz Drummer and Educator Lewis Nash Appears with Thelonious Monk Institute of Jazz Performance Ensemble at The Nash on Sunday, Oct. 18

Los Angeles, CA – With lead funding from the Arizona Community Foundation’s Black Philanthropy Initiative, the Thelonious Monk Institute of Jazz will bring the seven gifted young musicians who attend its Jazz Performance graduate-level college program at the UCLA Herb Alpert School of Music to Phoenix public schools and The Nash in a jazz education and performance tour, Oct. 17–21.

The tour will kick off with three events open to the public on Sunday, Oct. 18, at The Nash, 110 E. Roosevelt St., celebrating its 3rd Anniversary the weekend of Oct. 16-18. Phoenix residents and visitors are invited to enjoy an evening of music by the **Thelonious Monk Institute of Jazz Performance Ensemble at UCLA** with special guest GRAMMY Award-winning jazz drummer **Lewis Nash**, a Phoenix native and the venue’s namesake. The group will perform original compositions and fresh arrangements of jazz classics, as well as tunes from Nash’s latest recordings at 7:30 p.m. Tickets are \$20 and student tickets are \$10. A free, two-part masterclass will be presented by Lewis Nash and the Monk Institute Ensemble from 2–4 p.m. Beginning with a History of Jazz presentation at 2 p.m., the group will perform music from all eras of jazz and discuss the evolution of the music over the last century. An Interactive Composition Workshop will follow at 3 p.m., with Phoenix students and musicians performing compositions by the Monk Ensemble and discussing compositional techniques with ensemble members.

Combining performance with information, “informances” will be presented by the Monk fellows, seven of the world’s most exceptionally gifted master’s level music students, at Phoenix public schools including Camelback High, Trevor G. Browne High, Thunderbird High and Herrera Middle. Each school visit will include an informance followed by a master class.

The touring musicians will talk with the Phoenix students about what jazz is, why it is important to America, and how a jazz ensemble represents a perfect democracy. They also will discuss the important American values that jazz represents: teamwork, freedom with responsibility, unity with ethnic diversity, the correlation of hard work and goal accomplishment, persistence, and the vital importance of really listening to one another. When young people hear this important message from musicians closer to their age, they are often more likely to tune in.

The members of the Thelonious Monk Institute of Jazz Performance Ensemble are vocalist **Michael Mayo**, from Los Angeles; alto saxophonist **David Otis**, from Downey, Calif.; tenor saxophonist **Daniel Rotem**, from Jerusalem, Israel; trombonist **Ido Meshulam**, from Bat-Yam, Israel; pianist **Carmen Staaf**, from Seattle; bassist **Alex Boneham**, from Sydney, Australia; and drummer **Christian Euman**, from Chicago. “Lewis Nash has been such an important figure in the jazz community for a long time now, and he continues to inspire not only drummers, but all instrumentalists in this music,” said Euman, one of the best jazz drummers of his generation. “I think I can speak on behalf of the ensemble and say that we are all very much looking forward to working with and learning from Lewis through our performances with him, as well as our music education outreach presentations.”

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The visiting musicians will play with their Phoenix counterparts side-by-side, providing mentorship and sharing their knowledge they have gained from their professors Herbie Hancock and Wayne Shorter, and many other architects of jazz. 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 60 years ago. They'll also learn about each other's cities and culture.

The Phoenix jazz education and performance tour is sponsored by the Arizona Community Foundation's Black Philanthropy Initiative, with support from the Renaissance Phoenix Downtown Hotel. Air transportation is provided by United Airlines, Official Airline of the Thelonious Monk Institute of Jazz.

About Lewis Nash



Multiple GRAMMY Award-winner **Lewis Nash** is one of the top jazz drummers and educators on the scene today. Born and raised in Phoenix, Nash was named the “most valuable player” in jazz (*Modern Drummer Magazine*). The drummer of choice for an incredible array of artists — from legends of the music to today’s hottest young stars — Nash is equally in demand as a clinician and educator. Nash is at home in a wide range of musical territory, and his versatility has made him one of the most in-demand drummers of the past two decades. After joining Betty Carter’s band at age 22, Nash went on to record and tour with Oscar Peterson, Sonny Rollins, Horace Silver, Ron Carter and Clark Terry, among many others. Recognized as one of the foremost brush stylists of his generation, Nash’s recordings with pianist Tommy Flanagan display his mastery in this regard. He formed his own band in the late 1990s, and has made four recordings as a leader. Nash currently leads several groups and was a member of the Monterey Jazz Festival 55th anniversary tour.

About The Nash

The Nash is owned by Jazz in Arizona, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization. Located at 110 E. Roosevelt Street, Phoenix, it is named for the most valuable player” in jazz (*Modern Drummer Magazine*), Phoenix native Lewis Nash. The Nash preserves the cultural treasure of American music history, showcases live performance and ensures the future of the iconic art of jazz for generations to come. Educational and performance programs at The Nash include: classic jazz and new music; performances by student musicians, local pros and touring artists; weekly jazz jam sessions; workshops; master classes; and clinics. Educational programs range from one-on-one private lessons to combo labs, guided listening, jazz in film, jazz camps and more. *thenash.org*.

About the Thelonious Monk Institute of Jazz

The Thelonious Monk Institute of Jazz is a nonprofit education organization established in 1986. Its mission is to offer the world’s most promising young musicians college level training by internationally acclaimed jazz masters and to present school-based music education programs for young people around the world. The Institute preserves, perpetuates and expands jazz as a global art form, and utilizes jazz as a means to unite people of all ages, backgrounds and nationalities. All of the Institute’s programs are provided free of charge to students, schools and communities worldwide. The Institute’s programs help fill a tremendous void in arts education left by budget cuts in public school funding, 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. *monkinstitute.org*.

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Phoenix Jazz Education and Performance Tour Schedule

<u>Date</u>	<u>Event</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Location</u>
Sunday, Oct. 18	Thelonious Monk Institute of Jazz Performance at the UCLA Herb Alpert School of Music with special guest Lewis Nash		
	Two-part Masterclass	2–4 p.m.	The Nash (free)
	Part 1: The History of Jazz Masterclass	2–3 p.m.	
	Part 2: Interactive Composition Workshop	3–4 p.m.	
	Concert	7:30–8:45 p.m.	The Nash (tickets at thenash.org)
			110 E Roosevelt St #110, Phoenix, AZ 85004
			(602) 795-0464

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<u>Date</u>	<u>Event</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Location</u>
Monday, Oct. 19	Masterclass	7–8:30 a.m.	Camelback High School
	Assembly Informance Masterclass	10–10:35 a.m. 10:45 a.m. – 12:15 p.m.	Central High School
Tuesday, Oct. 20	Assembly Informance Masterclass	9:10–10 a.m. 10 –11 a.m.	Trevor G. Browne High School
	Assembly Informance Masterclass	12:40–1:35 p.m. 1:40 – 2:35 p.m.	Thunderbird High School
Wednesday, Oct. 21	Assembly Informance Masterclass	9–10 a.m. 10–11:30 a.m.	Herrera Middle School
	Masterclass	1 – 3 p.m.	Arizona School for the Arts

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