

WYJB QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

Volume 1, Issue 1

September 12, 2011

WILMINGTON YOUTH JAZZ BAND

Our Partnership with Berklee

The WYJB is presently in partnership with Berklee College School of Music and is supported by various organizations including the Council of Jazz Advocate (COJA) and the City of Wilmington. We also enjoy support from the Gilliam Foundation and the East Side Charter School.

As part of our partnership with Berklee College of Music, our weekly curriculum requires that all students are enrolled in the [Berklee PULSE Music Method](#).

This is a web based program that is accessed through the Berklee City Music Network Nationwide. It offers a fun and innovative way to provide music instruction.

The program also includes a staff of successful professional musicians who have the heart to help the youths in our city. This staff includes Fostina Dixon-Kilgoe [woodwinds], James Dixon [brass] [Board Vice President of WYJB], Vernon James Sr. [piano/brass]. Aaron Walker, Todd Kilgoe, Dill McDaniel as some instructors who have participated with the WYJB.

Other professional musicians have expressed a sincere interest in volunteering their services as needed



Wilmington native Fostina Dixon-Kilgoe founded the Wilmington Youth Jazz Band in 2003. An Alumna of Berklee College of Music, she was awarded a grant to launch the program. The Delaware Division of the Arts also supports the WYJB. Our in-kind supporters include Dr. Frank Foster, Dr. Billy Taylor, Sam Ash Music/Paul Ash, the Grand Opera House, Council of Jazz Advocates, Wilmington Music School, East Side Community Learning Center, and the Afro- American Historical Society.

Our Program

WYJB is a non-profit organization with a 501c3 status, incorporated through the State of Delaware as Wilmington Youth Jazz Band, Incorporated. The website is: wyjb.org. The Band's mission is to expose, educate, and culturally enrich students through learning jazz music to maintain the future and longevity of jazz, the only true American art form. This organization provides opportunities for young people of all diversities ethically, financially, and educationally. This organization is a non-profit organization, and it maintains its financial responsibilities through fundraising projects and in-kind supporters. The WYJB enhances the latent talents of young participants and provides them with a greater understanding of jazz music. Furthermore, it allows participants an opportunity to display emerging talents, continued on pg 2

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Special points of interest:

- ◆ Jazz in Delaware article: www.wyjb.org
- ◆ Community Outreach

www.WYJB.org

Fostina Dixon-Kilgoe

Continued from pg 1

urging them to be participants in the advocacy for musical excellence, and equip them to succeed in the future.

This organization is a window of hope for many young people who would not otherwise be able to afford professional musical instruction. The success of this program also allows the youth to perform for an audience that is supportive of their accomplishments. Notably, this enthusiasm filters throughout the community as positive reinforcement for the future of our youth, contrary to negative statistics quoting the success rates of many young people in today's society. The staff benefits from knowing that they have enriched the lives of students, the instructors benefit from the recognition of their talents and for their community. The overall benefit: the youth, the family, the community, and the world.

Founder/Executive director and Director of the band



African Festival in Dover, DE
June 25, 2011

Fostina Dixon-Kilgoe is the founder and director of the Wilmington Youth Jazz Band and a native of Wilmington. She is a composer, vocalist and jazz soloist who plays the soprano, alto and baritone saxophones, flute, and clarinet. She has recorded several of her own jazz albums with group Winds of Change on the Fossiebear production label. In 2010, she released a new CD called, "Yesterday, Today and Forever". Mrs. Dixon-Kilgoe has performed and recorded with jazz greats such as Dr. Frank Foster, Dr. Billy Taylor, Charli Persip, Melba Liston, Abbey Lincoln, Gil Evans, Gerald Wilson, James Blood, the Mary Lou Williams Jazz Festival, and numerous tours in the U.S., Europe, and Asia. She also traveled with the late great Marvin Gaye for four years and recorded with the Fat Boys. She has been featured in several books including:

Black Women and Music: More than the Blues, by Linda Williams and Eileen Hayes (2007), Black Women in American Bands and Orchestra, by D. Antoinette Handy (1995), The Genuine American Music, by the Honorable James M. Baker (1993), and American Women in Jazz, by Sally Placksin (1982). Mrs. Dixon-Kilgoe currently teaches in the Christina School District and completed her Master's program in Educational Leadership at Wilmington University in 2008. She was the recipient of the Outstanding Art Educator Award for the Christina School District in 2009 and the recipient of the Christi Awards of Outstanding Achievement in Arts Education by Christiana Cultural Arts also in 2009. Mrs. Dixon-

Kilgoe served on a panel at the Kennedy Center selecting the best emerging saxophonist throughout the world for 2008.

Below is a link to a recent article that gives different perspectives of where jazz music is in Delaware. The article is called Jazz in Delaware. You will see how I commented about a half into the article. I of course mention the Wilmington Youth Jazz Band. I was included in a documentary on WHYY as well. That will be aired in July. There was a lot of information taken about the Wilmington Youth Jazz Band as well as my musical career. I will keep you informed. Thank you for your support.

<http://www.delawarefirst.org/featured-posts/jazz-delaware/>



African Festival 2011



WYJB Board of Directors

Dr. David E. Clark, President

Currently the Deputy Superintendent of Chester Community Charter Schools. Dr. Clark attended the University of Delaware, and graduated from Antioch University where he received a Bachelor's Degree in Human Services. He later went on to obtain a Masters Degree in Educational Studies from the University of Delaware, and his Doctorate from Wilmington University in Innovation and Educational Leadership. Dr. Clark entered the field of education over 24 years ago as a special education teacher in the Delaware public schools before becoming a school administrator in Delaware and Pennsylvania. Dr. Clark was a CEO of a charter school, former school principal, and assistant principal.

Senee Oates, Secretary

Senior Social Worker for the State of DE, by profession. I recently served 2 years, as the State of Delaware Reflections (Performing and manual Arts program for all school aged students) Chair person for the National PTA. For 10 yrs. I was an Administrator in Alternative Education Programs. My son is a pianist and a member of the WYJB.

Ranita Maldonado

I have been in Education for twenty seven years. I currently work at East Side Charter School in Wilmington, Delaware as a second grade teacher. Although I do not play an instrument or sing, I appreciate a variety of music. I was attracted to the Wilmington Youth Jazz Band by seeing first hand Fostina's love, passion and teaching music to children. The first time Fostina came into my class to teach music to my students; I was in awe of what she did and how the students responded to her. A few years ago the Wilmington Youth Jazz Band was looking for board members. I attended a meeting and liked their mission and vision. I attended meetings, rehearsals and helped where ever I could. It is only recently that I became an official board member. I believe if I can help out why not. I would love to see WYJB attract more students especially those from diverse backgrounds. I would also like WYJB to be well known throughout the tri-state area.

Devearl Oates

Bassist, Keyboards, Vocalist

Lincoln University graduate in 1990. BA degree in Music Performance. I have performed with many musicians & vocalists throughout DE, PA, NJ, MD and VA. Music involvement - Gospel, R&B, Jazz, Rock & Funk. Performed in many different venues and for different occasions. I have composed a number of original pieces that are sentimental to me. I've enjoyed the experience of sharing the stage with greats such as Kim Waters (Sax), Delbert Boyer (Guitar), Steven Walls (Keys/Vocals), Loretta Coney (Vocals), Andre Hoxter (Bass/Keys), my mentor Tim Southerland (Bass/Keys/Guitar), Stan Southerland (Guitar), Robert Nelson (Drums), Lewis "Brazil" Lott (Guitar/Bass), Alvin Pope (Keys) and many, many other talented musicians throughout the area. Playing in the Jazz and Concert Bands in college allowed me to meet some prominent people such as actor, Clifton Davis, the late Grover Washington, Jr. and many others of different talents. Today, I spend more of my time playing for my church, supporting my son with his musical endeavors, writing and producing music. I still say that the best is yet to come.

Fostina Dixon-Kilgoe, Founder/Executive Director and Director of the band

Vernon James Sr., Co-Director, Instructor

James Dixon, Vice President, Instructor

Robin Demby, Treasurer

Larry King, Procurement Officer

Carol A. S. Brevett, Ph. D.

Dr. Brevett first learned about the WYJB when her son joined. She has been a member of the Board of the WYJB for under a year, and was an active participant for a year before joining the Board. Dr. Brevett is also a member of The Continental Societies, Delaware Area Chapter, which organizes and supports programs for youth. Dr. Brevett has held positions as a Teaching Assistant and Lecturer at Iowa State University, and published "Atommate, The Chemistry Card Game", to help teach children about Chemistry.

Richard Blackwell

www.jazzonmymind.tv

Wednesdays 8pm

Live Jazz Broadcast (interviews & performances coast to coast)

[Wwww.jazzonmymind.com](http://www.jazzonmymind.com)

Dr. David E. Clark, President



WYJB Instructors Corner



James Dixon

Brass

Studied with Robert Lowery and other legendary jazz musicians.

His musical talents enabled him to participate in the Delaware All State Band and the All City Orchestra. As a political science major with minors in economics and sociology, Mr. Dixon graduated cum laude from Lincoln University, and in 1974 received a Ford Foundation Scholarship for summer study in West Africa. Mr. Dixon has performed with Fela, Hugh Masakela, Big John Patton, Philly Joe Jones, Archie Shepp Pepper Adams, and other legends of jazz. His teaching experience includes the Tullman House, Christina Cultural Arts Center, the Lee Cultural Center in Philadelphia, and the Model City Arts Program, also in Philadelphia.



Todd Kilgoe

Drums/ & Percussion

Born in Wilmington, DE, he comes from a family of musicians. Todd started drum lessons at age 7. When jazz became his passion, he began taking lessons from John Spence, Skip Rohrich and Wilby Fletcher Jr. Todd has played professionally with Fostina Dixon-Kilgoe, Mario Tollis, Joe Joe Robinson, Dave Dixon, Joe Shields, Tony Smith, Carl McNeil and others. He is a fine contribution in educating the younger generation.



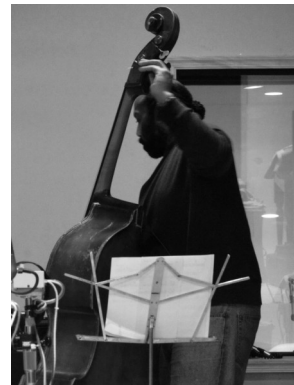
Vernon James

Woodwinds

Saxophonist, has a long tenure as an active musician/teacher in the Wilmington area. He is a former student of Wilmington's Robert "Boysie" Lowery as well as Joe Viola and Andy McGhee, whom he studied with while attending Berklee College of Music. Mr. James is pleased to have worked and performed with many fine artists throughout his career. Artists such as Sam Wooding, Frank Wess, and Gil Scott Heron, are a few whom he has played with. Current performing activities include Atiba's Dream - a world music ensemble, Pastiche - a Latin music ensemble, Quintessence a Jazz Quintet, and Infinity - a jazz sextet. With The Wilmington Youth Jazz Band, Mr. James is woodwind instructor. Previously he directed the UD Jazz Chamber Ensembles for many years, as well as taught at Christina Cultural Art Center for 20 years.

Dill McDaniel

Piano & Bass



"I Got The Music In Me" (Our Student's community activities)



African Festival, 2011

Pyerce



Pyerce is 12 years old and plays for his church choir, Mt. Tabor AME Zion Church, Avondale, Pa. He played the piano at the African Festival on June 25, 2011 with the WYJB. He is a member of the August Quarterly choir and the original gospel play, "Through It All,

Can You Stand?" Pyerce is a member of the Jazz Combo and Marching Band at Cab Calloway School of the Arts, where he is a vocal major and a piano minor. Pyerce has a jazz CD in circulation, on cdbaby.com called, "My Father Is Like A General." All of the jazz cuts are originals. Specific piano accolades for Pyerce include the "Outstanding Soloist" Award from the University of Delaware Jazz Festival (2011), Newark, DE, "Outstanding Accompanist" Award from "Music in the Parks", (2011), Hershey, Pa and "Youth Community Service" Award from the Newark, DE NAACP (2009).

Pyerce says, "there is more to come. I look forward to sharing my musical experiences with you. I want to encourage all young musicians to come and check out the Wilmington Youth Jazz Band. It is an experience that will change your life!!"

Abraham and Eli are both active in the St. Paul's United Methodist Church music program (Foulk Rd. Wilmington). They play choral anthems in church when there is need for a brass/woodwind accompaniment. When the church does a special music presentation or cantata, they play their instruments in the orchestra.

They both are involved in the orchestra for a special Sept. 11th 10 year anniversary Memorial Concert that will be held Sept. 11, 2011 at Mt. Pleasant High School. It is an undertaking of 3 area churches, Wilmington Community Orchestra, and about 120 choral members. It will be quite a moving concert to commemorate the 10 year anniversary of 9-11.

Abraham also plays organ, and he plays at St. Paul's church and some other local churches and nursing homes for their worship services. He plays piano solos at the churches too. He often accompanies his mother while she plays the flute.

Abraham is also part of a young jazz group called The Watermelon Men (5-6 members), who perform at local events (fundraisers, wine tastings, private parties, etc.).

Thurston began studying the piano at age 5 and is currently a pianist at Red Lion Evangelical Free Church (2010-present).



Thurston began playing tenor saxophone at age 9, and has been a member of the Delaware All-States Junior Band and Junior Jazz Band (2008, 2009, 2010); Senior Band and Senior Jazz Band (2011), and the Woodwind Ensemble at The Governor's School of Excellence at the University of Delaware (2011).

Specific tenor saxophone accolades for Thurston include a "Superior" rating in the Delaware Music Educators Association 2009 and 2010 Solo and Ensemble Competition and Festival; "Outstanding Solo" Award from "Music in the Parks", (2009), Hershey, PA, and "Outstanding Soloist" Award from the University of Delaware Jazz Festival, (2009), Newark, DE.

Thurston's musical ventures at Cab Calloway School of the Arts, where he is a student, include playing tenor saxophone for Jazz Band and Jazz Combo, baritone saxophone for Wind Ensemble, bass and double-bass for the Jazz Chords.

Jaire is 10 years old. He joined WYJB in April of 2010. He plays the drums. In his spare time he likes to play basketball and X-Box 360.



Local Musician Interviews

Larry Williams (Woodwinds)

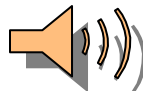
I'm a native of Wilmington, DE. My interest in music has been a lifelong thing. I play the saxophones and flute, plus I arrange and compose. I've worked with various R&B and jazz groups around town; including playing and directing the Boysie Lowery Alumni Big Band. Among the many saxophonists who have influenced me, I will list Lester Young, Dexter Gordon, Charlie Parker, Wardell Gray, Sonny Stitt, Sonny Rollins, Hank Mobley and John Coltrane. My best advice for the students would be to listen as much as possible to the masters of jazz; study their solos and techniques. Jazz is a musical language, and by studying the masters, students will learn to speak it. Also, much can be learned from studying the history of jazz.



Ronnie Smith (Woodwinds)

Born in Delaware. My father was William "Chick" Smith. He was a prominent musician by his own right in Delaware and surrounding States. My first instrument in 5th grade at the 21 School in Wilmington was the clarinet. I studied under Harry Andrews in High School. I was the first African American to be measured for the Howard High School Marching Band uniform. Me and Clifford Brown were in high school together. I wrote music for Queen Bell and brought my first Sax in 1956. I play all saxophones, the flute and harmonica. I have played at the Baby Grand with many jazz groups. Back in the day, I used to walk the streets with my Sax and sit in with other prominent musicians around town. My advice to the students at WYJB is to always have a "day gig." I gave 25 years of service to Amtrak as an electrician and I loved my job.

WYJB Students Speak



Sa'eed Abuwi Sr. & Sa'eed Abuwi Jr.

CONGRATULATIONS!



Sa'eed Abuwi Jr. attends Cab Calloway School of the Arts in Wilmington, DE and is a member of the WYJB. Sa'eed Abuwi Sr. also plays with the WYJB. They recently won 1st place in a father and child/children community talent competition called, "Me and My Father Have Talent Too!" in Wilmington, DE, sponsored by the Y.E.S.S. Program. Their prize was \$1000.00 and they will be the opening performers for the Delaware Teen Idol completion at the DuPont Theatre in Wilmington, DE.

Contact Information

- **Wilmington Youth Jazz Band (WYJB)**
- c/o Fostina Dixon-Kilgoe
- P.O. Box 9440
- Wilmington, Delaware 19809

WYJB founder contact info:

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Fossiebear@comcast.net

<http://www.home.comcast.net/~fossiebear>

WYJB Board Secretary contact info:

Senee Oates: (302) 757-1956
Senee.music@gmail.com

ANNUAL CONCERT

WILMINGTON YOUTH JAZZ BAND
 WITH
 THE MUSIC SCHOOL OF DELAWARE
*Featuring our special guests Larry Williams,
 Ronnie Smith and Vernon James Jr.*
 Directed by Fostina Dixon-Kilgoe

JUNE 5, 2011 7:00 PM - 9:00 PM

Location: The Music School of Delaware
 4101 Washington Street
 Wilmington, DE 19802

DONATION
 Adults \$10.00
 Students \$3
 5 yrs. And younger Free

Instructors:
 James Dixon, Vernon James, Todd
 Kilgoe, Dill McDaniel, Chris Braddock

Contact Information:
 Senee Oates
 302-834-7148 email: Senee723@gmail.com
 Website: WYJB.org



Calendar of Events

May 21, 2011—**ESCS Spring Fling**, Wilmington, DE

June 5, 2011—**Annual Concert**, The Delaware School of Music, Wilmington, DE

June 25, 2011—**Annual African Festival** in Dover, DE

Nov. 29 & 30, 5pm-7pm—PNC Corporate Holiday Event, **Holiday Performance**, Wilmington, DE

Thank You

The Continental Society, Delaware Area Chapter for being a supporter.

Mr. David McIlvaine—Website designer & Tanya Bayard—for photographs from the African Festival