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MUSIC & ETHNOMUS



THELONIOUS MONK  
INSTITUTE OF JAZZ

### FAX COVER SHEET

**DATE:** March 16, 2016  
**TO:** Governor Nikki Haley  
**FAX:** 803-734-5167  
**FROM:** **Dr. JB Dyas**

This fax has 2 pages (including the cover sheet)

**COMMENTS:**

Please see following letter to Governor  
Haley regarding Charleston's being one of only  
five cities nationwide selected this year  
to receive free concerts and workshops in  
their public schools, compliments of the  
National Endowment For the Arts.  
Thank you!



## THELONIOUS MONK INSTITUTE OF JAZZ

March 16, 2016

**Herbie Hancock**  
*Chairman*

The Honorable Nikki R. Haley  
Office of the Governor  
1205 Pendleton Street  
Columbia, South Carolina 29201

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Dear Governor Haley,

As you might know, Charleston was one of only five cities nationwide selected this year to be provided free public school concerts and workshops by the Thelonious Monk Institute of Jazz. Sponsored by the National Endowment for the Arts, this series is a component of the Institute's *Peer-to-Peer Jazz Informance Program*, a national American History and Social Studies initiative designed to teach public school students across the country about America's indigenous art form, jazz. The "informances" focus on jazz's importance to our nation's history and culture as well as the important American values jazz represents: teamwork, unity with ethnic diversity, democracy, and the vital importance of really listening to one another.

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This particular tour is coming to Charleston April 14-15, 2016, and will feature internationally acclaimed saxophone recording artist **Dayna Stephens**, as well as Kansas City jazz & blues vocalist and former Thelonious Monk International Jazz Vocal Competition winner **Lisa Henry**. They will be accompanied by the talented septet from Houston's High School for the Performing and Visual Arts, one of 12 public performing arts high schools around the county that we support. Besides playing at a level that belies their years, the young performers talk to their like-age audiences in language they understand not only about jazz and its aforementioned values, but also about the importance of finding a passion for something early in life, working hard at it, being persistent, and believing in yourself. We have found that when young people hear this important message from kids their same age, they listen.

At each of two Charleston public schools (one per day), we will be presenting three services at absolutely no cost to the schools or school district: a concert/assembly program for the entire student body, an instrumental jazz workshop for the school's jazz band, and a vocal jazz workshop for the school's choir.

As you would expect, the Peer-to-Peer Education Initiative has garnered and will continue to generate a great deal of press nationally. Our media day/VIP concert for Charleston will be on Friday, April 15, at Burke High School (244 President St.), beginning at 9:30 am. If you happen to be in the vicinity that day, **we would be honored if you could break away from your busy schedule for a few minutes and introduce the concert, welcoming the students, faculty, and press.** If you are unavailable personally, we would certainly welcome someone from your office to speak on your behalf. If you like, we can provide a few talking points about jazz's importance to American history and, particularly, South Carolina history.

On behalf of our chairman, Herbie Hancock, thank you for your consideration. We are so looking forward to bringing this exciting and educative program into Charleston public schools! Please feel free to contact me anytime via email ([jbdyas@monkinstitute.org](mailto:jbdyas@monkinstitute.org)), my office phone (310-206-9501), or cell (323-270-3904).

Sincerely,

*JB Dyas*

JB Dyas, PhD  
Vice President, Education and Curriculum Development

cc: Marcia Adams  
Herbie Hancock  
Molly Spearman