

INSIDE THIS EDITION



WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

Jesenia Jackson & Desmond Barnes



INSTRUMENT DONATIONS!

Help keep live music in schools



TALENT SHOW

MGM National Harbor Employees



AUDITIONS ARE OPEN

FAME Jazz Band Program



EVENTS

Mark Your Calendar

Calling All FAME Alumni – If you attended a FAME program or workshop we want to connect with you to form an Alumni Group. It will keep former students connected to the organization while offering networking, personal development and volunteer opportunities. If you would like to participate email your contact information to BBlair@fame.org.

In the Spirit of Thanks Giving!



As students around the region settle into the 2018-2019 school year, and the FAME Jazz Band Program enters

Season 4 (hard to believe it, this is the 4th year), we are optimistic about the possibilities that lie ahead for the youth we serve and FAME.

As we enter the Holiday season, we continue to give thanks for our partners who have renewed their commitment to FAME's 15th year of providing enriching access to quality educational and artistic opportunities. We are also thankful for the voices of teachers, community members and leaders that are advocating for quality education for our children and keeping music in schools. And thank You for your philanthropic support - your financial and instrument donations are key to our ability to provide access for many youth

I am grateful for FAME's Board of Directors' vision and dedication to advancing FAME's mission. They truly are the wind beneath my wings. Thank you, **Harry Staley, Chairman; Wayne Ferguson, Vice Chairman; Cecelia Davis, Treasurer; Gwendolyn Ferguson, Secretary; Karen S. Jackson, Sam Hutchinson, John Ray, Reg Weaver, & Gregory K. Wells.**

The United Parcel Service (UPS) & PEPCO, An Exelon Company, recently provided funding to establish our long-awaited state of the art Music & Technology lab this Fall. The lab will be used to widen our service base and connect additional youth to STEM and SAT tutoring classes, year-round music theory and technology training, and provide access to computers for homework. What a blessing! Thank you, UPS & PEPCO, for your continued support.

Please donate to our end year campaign at www.FAMEmusic.org. Your gift, no matter how large or small, will directly help FAME provide academic and music training through our programs and activities that benefit underserved youth, and fill the void where school education and cultural arts programs are limited.

Enjoy the holidays! We look forward to seeing you at one of our upcoming events. 🎵

With Gratitude,

A. Toni Lewis
President/CEO

“Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world.”

– Nelson Mandela

FAME is a harmony of music and education. We prepare middle and high school youth for college and career through a four-pronged approach: Music Instruction, Educational Support, College Preparation, and Work Readiness.

FAME challenges students to set high expectations for their academic and life achievements by expanding students' experiences to demonstrate that they are not defined by their current conditions or surroundings. For more information visit www.FAMEmusic.org.

Where Are They Now?



Jesenia M. Jackson

A reserved and poised student came to **Beats, Books, and Hooks (BBH)** summer program in 2013 with her younger brothers at her side. During the introduction period she stated that she was "looking for a good summer experience for herself and her siblings." She was very active during the program and mentored other students. It was very clear from the outset that she knew that music would be a big part of her future. On her program survey she wrote "FAME changed my life! I will never be the same." That student was Jesenia Jackson.

In a recent letter Jesenia wrote "I remember the day I met the instructors at BBH. I saw people that not only genuinely loved what they did but took the extra time to help children find their way, and work to achieve greatness in every area of their life. Being surrounded by their enthusiasm and learning music technology, music theory, preparing for the "big show" at the end of the program, and working in a field in which I could be myself, encouraged me to attend college for music and mentor less fortunate youth. It is important that young people just don't play music but are educated on the fundamentals of music and academics to be a well-rounded individual - That's what FAME does, and I am grateful that I was a part of such an amazing organization"

"Too often we give children answers to remember rather than problems to solve."
– Roger Lewin

Last Spring, Jesenia graduated from Spelman College with a Bachelor of Arts in Piano Performance. Jesenia currently serves as the President and CEO of **Miss. Jackson Records** (a gospel and classical record label). She is pursuing her Master of Music Degree in Music Theory & Composition: Scoring for Film & Multimedia at New York University (NYU).

If you have attended 'Tis the Season or a FAME anniversary celebration, chances are you have heard Jesenia on the piano or were greeted by her warm spirit at the front door or registration desk. Jesenia served as a Music and Technology Intern at FAME for two summers. This summer she developed and taught a creative and engaging curriculum for FAME's "For the Love of Music" a summer program for elementary school youth. Jesenia is a strong advocate for keeping live music in our schools. In addition to Jesenia's individual musical pursuits, she serves as the group leader for her family musical group, *Higher Ground*. 🎵



Desmond Barnes

Desmond Barnes aka DB Bantino began working with FAME in his junior year at Morgan State University. In a recent article, Desmond stated "... the nonprofit FAME was the first official organization to give me and my music a chance and support my dream. They provided me with recording studio opportunities, that I could not afford at the time, so that I could develop my promo materials. In addition to moral and networking support, they challenged me with a commission opportunity to create, record and perform FAME's theme song in 2009. It was my first break to be professionally recognized for something that I created. My exposure to and nurturing by FAME was a big motivating factor in establishing my career in music." The music and lyrics for the Theme Song can be found at <http://famemusic.org/fame-theme-song-lyrics/>.

Desmond is from Southeast Washington, DC. He is a triple threat with the creative talents of being a producer, writer and artist. Desmond has written songs for Chris Brown, Future, Tory Lanes, Rae Sremmurd, Bone Thugs-N-Harmony, Jason Derulo and many other major acts. He signed a publishing deal with Rodney Jerkins Seventy7 Music Publishing in 2014. He has worked closely with Rodney Jerkins on writing eight songs for Fox 5 prime TV show **Empire**.

Desmond has produced music for three different television campaigns including LG Smartphone company. He also has worked in the studio with producer Scott Storch and other hit producers writing records and working on his personal music.

Desmond is a regular supporter of FAME and its programs. He often calls Ms. Toni to inspire her to continue motivating youth and speaking into their ears: "You are Enough". He also supports youth in other nonprofits by writing and producing workshops in DC to help teach and motivate others to pursue their dreams and how to establish careers in the music industry. 🎵

Many thanks to Instrument Donors!

To help keep live music in our schools and instruments in our children's hands, we are constantly looking for new or gently used **instruments** to donate to deserving students and/or schools. Financial contributions are critical for maintaining and repairing our instruments. Donations received during this quarter include: 1) A *Whitney* acoustic Baby Grand Piano with bench, and a Yamaha Digital



Crofton Piano Movers deliver pianos donated by **Friendship House Senior Living Center**.



FAME Jazz Band member Genesis Dorsey receives upright bass from Concerts for Causes, Inc.

piano with bench from **Anne Derby and the Friendship House Senior Living Center in Sandy Spring, Maryland**; and 2) an upright bass donated by Brett Murray, and his nonprofit foundation, Concert for Causes, Inc. Brett made the donation after hearing that the FAME Jazz Band Program's new bass player, Genesis

Dorsey needed one of her own for performances and practice at home. Many thanks to these donors! You have made a substantial contribution to our students and organization. Also, thank you to our piano consult and tuner, Mr. William Grogan; and Crofton Piano Movers for their continued support. 🎵

MGM National Harbor's Employee Talent Show

I had the pleasure of serving as a judge at MGM National Harbor's Employee Talent Show Competition in August. The performances were first rate and very enjoyable. The winners were 1st place: Dakota Gordon (If I Had My Way – Chrisette Michel), 2nd place: Emmanuel Livingston (Billie Jean – Michael Jackson), 3rd place: Jahrod Coates and Thaddeus Dutton (Lately – KiCi and JoJo). 🎵



First and second place winners.



MGM Talent Show Judges with MGM representative: L to R: Priscilla Clarke, President/CEO, Clarke & Associates; Jeriel Johnson, Executive Director, DC Chapter of The Recording Academy (Grammy); Starlet Hunter, MGM Manager, Community Engagement; and A. Toni Lewis, President/CEO FAME-Foundation for the Advancement of Music & Education. *Photo courtesy of MGM.*



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NEWS TO SHARE? LET US KNOW!

The Score newsletter is published quarterly and is available online and in hardcopy. To subscribe, share your ideas or to learn more about FAME programs visit www.FAMEmusic.org.

We want to hear from you! Please send us your contact information to info@fameorg.org.

WEBSITE: www.FAMEMusic.org

EMAIL: info@fameorg.org

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FAME Jazz Band Program Auditions Open!

Attention, ALL youth musicians

Are you interested in playing Jazz with a group of inspired and talented middle and high school students living or attending school (public, private, homeschool) in Prince George's County Maryland? If so, you should apply and audition for this amazing Jazz experience. Applicants should have good technical skills on their instruments and good reading skills. There should also be a keen desire to be a team member and have the time to develop and improve your individual skills.

In addition, this program offers you expert academic tutoring support in STEM, ACT & SAT, music theory instruction, college prep, and no-cost

enrollment in Summer music technology & enrichment programs at the University of Maryland College Park. FAME's goal is to provide young musicians an additional musical experience to supplement their music. You will have the opportunity to learn from and work with several of the finest educators, professional musicians and directors, perform on major stages, deepen your knowledge of music, and develop artistic skills alongside peers. Students will receive weekly rotating group



instruction with emphasis on technique development, musical expression, and collaborative playing. Audition requirements and application can be found at www.FAMEmusic.org. 🎵

Make Donations today ONLINE: www.FAMEMusic.org • MAIL: FAME PO Box 2228, Bowie, MD 20718-2228 • CALL: 301-805-5358

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