



In 2023, HAPCO delivered educational programs and community events that furthered the career goals of over 1,000 student musicians.

Our Students

Programs are conducted in locations central to disadvantaged neighborhoods, connecting young people with industry professionals and giving them inroads into community networks. Our targeted areas have an average annual household income less than \$29,950; typically, over 75% of their populations are minorities. These communities have limited physical and/or financial access to creative arts education services and resources.

Vision

HAPCO's programs help young people improve their talents, increasing their ability to obtain university-level scholarships and aid. Achieving a bachelor's degree increases an individual's potential earnings by 55%. With a median annual income of \$39,700, high school graduates face greater financial obstacles in life – the 2023 US Federal Poverty Level is \$29,950 annual household income for a family of four. This disparity in income can be the difference in living paycheck-to-paycheck versus financial security.

ALICE (Asset Limited, Income Constrained, and Employed) individuals earn more than the Federal Poverty Level, but not enough for the cost of living where they live. These individuals usually work two or three jobs to make ends meet (2023 ALICE Report, *United for ALICE, United Way*).

47% of Central Florida families are below the ALICE threshold – 386,077 households in Orange, Seminole and Osceola counties. 110,250 households live in poverty; 275,827 families are ALICE households unable to afford basic needs.

Programs

Our free programs provide the tools these students need to hone their creative talents, connect them with mentors and give them insights into applying for, paying for and succeeding at university level education.

- Educational programs help students improve their skills
- At community events, musicians gain live experience and income at paid performances
- Concerts by industry top performers inspire student musicians and enhance community spirit

Jazz Clinic: Over 700 middle and high school musicians attended this all-day program. Clinicians were UCF Jazz Studies professors and other music professionals. This free clinic serves the entire Central Florida area. With a focus on

the opportunities they have through their musical talents, this clinic fuels students' desires to attend college or pursue music as a career.

Master Classes: Conducted at Evans High School, Oak Ridge High School and Ocoee High School, these intense-focus classes add educational content to the schools' band program education. They enhance student performance abilities and have led to several seniors receiving college scholarship offers. An Ocoee master class included a recording session of a song created by clinician Michele Fernandez.

Community Concerts: Students are exposed to peer and professional musicians who inspire them to improve their own abilities. Free shows in Ocoee, Apopka, Oakland and Oak Ridge included Latin GRAMMY® nominated pianist Martin Bejerano and his Cuban American Trio; University of Florida Jazz Studies Director and multi-instrumentalist Scott Wilson; UCF's Flying Horse Big Band; Miami's LeNard Rutledge; and the US debut of Madrid pianist Guillermo Hernández Barrocal.

HAPCO LIVE: Our student musicians entertained live at over 35 Central Florida performances. Through this program, student musicians are connected with community businesses, venues and civic events for public performance. Performance fees are paid directly to our musicians, providing them income and performance experience; the majority of our performers are in college.

HAPCO Culinary Arts: Our free nutrition education and cooking classes emphasize whole wellness for all ages to improve the health of our communities. Through culturally-diverse cuisine, chefs emphasize real-world solutions for seniors and others who have limited income and transportation resources. We introduced our Business of Food master class series for music students, focused on entrepreneurial culinary career opportunities. It continues in 2024 at Oak Ridge High School, Evans High School and Ocoee High School. It emphasizes entrepreneurship; alternative business models including food trucks, catering and ghost kitchens; community networking; cuisine style techniques; nutrition; and hands-on training.

HAPCO will continue to expand our educational and performance programs to help more young people succeed. New programs include historical, social and cultural education. Already scheduled are a lecture and documentary film presentation on the contributions of Harriett Tubman to our country as well as an evening at the Wells'built Museum in Parramore, with a presentation by UCF Director of Jazz Studies Jeff Rupert. The Flying Horse Big Band will entertain with music from Black jazz legends who performed at the South Street Casino and stayed at the Wells'Built Hotel.

HAPCO Music Foundation
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◀ See the Sound | Mickey Smith, Jr. | Madison Middle School, Miami
 ▶ Performance & Improv | Jeff Rupert | Evans High School, Orlando
 ▶ Ron Carter Trio | Oakland. Guitarist Russell Malone and pianist Donald Vega with Tuskegee Airman Lt Daniel Keel. Saxophonist Najee with Ron Carter (2022)



▶ US debut of Spanish pianist Guillermo Hernández Barrocal | Oakland

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RECENT EVENTS

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▲ Latin GRAMMY nominated pianist Martin Bejerano #CubanAmerican Trio, drummer Ludwig Afonso, bassist Edward Pérez | Oakland
 ▼ Ocoee Mayor Rusty Johnson, HAPCO 2023 Ambassador of the Year and Joseph McMullen. Ocoee Jazz Fest 2023, UCF Flying Horse Big Band, directed by Jeff Rupert. Student with Wycliffe Gordon, HAPCO Booth, Florida Music Educators Assn. Original Florida Highwaymen painter R.L. Lewis Jr. and Joseph McMullen, Florida League of Cities Annual Conference 2023, Orlando.



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▲ Scott Wilson Quartet | Oakland
 ▶ LeNard Rutledge & Friends | Miami