



HAPCO

MUSIC YOUTH ARTS

IMPACTS 2023/2024

In the 2022/23 and 2023/24 school years, HAPCO delivered educational programs and community events that furthered the career goals of 2,500+ student musicians.

State Funding: In 2023, HAPCO was to receive \$200,000 in State of Florida Appropriations arts funding. **State Rep Bruce Antone** sponsored our application and **Senator Geraldine Thompson** was companion sponsor – the support of the application itself was amazing. It generated an interest from other politicians in what we are doing to help our next generations succeed, which was even more amazing.

We had applied for the grant maximum of \$200,000. That full funding was approved by both the House and the Senate. We would have been extremely grateful for any amount granted.

The Governor vetoed all arts and culture grants funding – \$32 million – from the 2025 annual state budget. That means support from donors is even more important to our mission. We are so grateful for our community partners and individual supporters!

Jazz Clinic: Over 700 Central Florida middle and high school musicians attend this free all-day program. Clinicians are Jazz Studies professors and other music pros; they focus on technique and ways students can use their musical talents to attend college or pursue music as a career. Lead Clinician: Jeff Rupert, UCF Director of Jazz Studies.

Master Classes: 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**. Orlando: Evans, Jones, Oak Ridge and Ocoee High Schools.

Dr. Todd Williams, associate professor of music education at Indiana Wesleyan University, conducted a jazz master class for the Evans High School band. Mario Ford is the school's director of bands.

HAPCO LIVE: Our student musicians entertained live at over 55 Central Florida performances. Through LIVE, student musicians are connected with 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.





In Richardson, Texas, **Rich DeRosa** conducted a master class for Berkner High School jazz band students and another for Texas jazz educators. Texas Professional Development Hours through TJEA. Class topics include improv, scat, the rhythm section, small group performance, unified ensemble sound, choosing appropriate repertoire, conducting and effective rehearsals. DeRosa is the director of jazz composition and arranging at the University of North Texas. Marco Samperio, DMA is director of jazz bands & associate band director at Berkner High School.

HAPCO was a partner agency of the **2024 United Arts Collaborative Campaign for the Arts** which raises awareness for the arts and cultural community by uniting 60+ arts, science and history organizations to raise funds. The campaign raised over \$6.75 million, which supports arts, science and history organizations in Lake, Orange, Osceola and Seminole counties. HAPCO is a 2025 partner as well.

HAPCO awarded **Gustave** a scholarship to help pay for his last semester of school at FAMU. He majored in music, was part of the FAMU band, and now, he is a college graduate.

Community Concerts: Students are exposed to peer and pro musicians who inspire them to improve their own abilities. Residents are entertained at free local concerts. Shows in Central Florida included: **Ocoee Jazz Fest 2024:** UCF's Flying Horse Big Band, directed by Jeff Rupert; The ATTO Music Project; and the Ocoee High School Jazz Band, directed by Bernie Hendricks. Presented by the City of Ocoee and HAPCO.

Latin GRAMMY® nominated pianist **Martin Bejerano** and the **#CubanAmericanTrio**; University of Florida Jazz Studies Director and multi-instrumentalist **Scott Wilson**; and Madrid pianist **Guillermo Hernández Barrocal** performed in the Town of Oakland.

Dr. Eurydice Stanley presented **Harriet Tubman's** achievements including being the first woman to lead an armed military raid, Union spy, scout, nurse and conductor of the Underground Railroad. Tubman is an icon of freedom who acted, inspired and led as she fought for equality, justice and freedom in an era of slavery. Part of the Healthy West Orange Arts & Heritage Center at the Town of Oakland's Black History Month Celebration Exhibit.

International Jazz Day: Derrick Harris & Friends performed at the Town of Oakland's Farmer's Market. In Apopka, **LeNard Rutledge & Friends** entertained with jazz classics, presented in conjunction with the City of Apopka as part of their Apopka Amphitheater Saturday Sounds series.





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In Miami, **LeNard Rutledge** entertained at Madison Middle School's Jazz on the Ranch, the school's free community fundraiser.

Vocalist and keyboardist **Vance Villastrigo** and the **UCF Flying Horse Big Band**, directed by **Jeff Rupert**, entertained us with music from Black jazz legends who performed at the South Street Casino in Orlando – and found welcoming hospitality at the Wells' Built Hotel. The casino and hotel were built by Dr. William Monroe Wells, who dedicated his life to the well-being of both his patients and the Parramore community. This event at the Wells' built Museum was presented by **Senator Geraldine Thompson**, Florida State Senate, 15th District and HAPCO. Echoes Thru Time: Icons of the Black American Experience celebrates the people who have championed initiatives that have nurtured the growth and success of generations of Black musicians and artists. For over a century, these advocates for equality and unity defied convention, building opportunity for others. They helped shape our culture and society, ensuring the Black American creative voice was heard.



HAPCO awarded **Jhori Ahnae** a \$1,000 scholarship to help fund her grad studies at Berklee NYC. She is a vocalist, songwriter, producer and arranger. She received her B.S. in Business Admin from FAMU.



We sponsored five dancers at the **Strikers Youth Arts Project** Hip Hop & Step Summer Camp in Tallahassee. Harley, Harper, Kalanie, Naomi, Nyimah learned the art of stepping and hip-hop dance choreography.

HAPCO donated a saxophone to **Evans High School Junior Donte**. He did not own his own for practice at home. He wanted to practice more, especially as he is preparing for his college auditions.



Over 20 local music students experienced **Lord of the Rings: The Two Towers in Concert** for free, thanks to the **Dr. Phillips Center**. They also attended a Q&A pre-show reception with Maestro Shih-Hung Young & soloist Kaitlyn Lusk. Students were from Evans, Oak Ridge and Wekiva High Schools. Mario Ford, Evans' director of bands coordinated. HAPCO was one of three beneficiaries of this first community giveback of the 24/25 season, alongside Florida Youth Symphony Orchestra and Orlando Youth Chamber Ensemble.

Salvador Ramos, CEO, Empire Finish Systems was named our 2024 Ambassador of the Year. A long-time supporter, he has helped us bring great music to West Orange, including Wycliffe Gordon, the Ron Carter Trio – and the US debut of Madrid pianist Guillermo Hernández Barrocal.





◀ 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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▲ 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.



▲ Scott Wilson Quartet | Oakland
 ▶ Salvador Ramos, HAPCO 2024 Ambassador of the Year and McMullen

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