

HAPCO provided funding to help four violinists from **Evans High School** attend the Florida State University College of Music's String Orchestra camp. **Daymoir, Michaela, Debrah** and **Bacarri** expanded their talents and experienced college life in Tallahassee at the week-long camp. They played in an orchestra and a chamber ensemble; they also attended sectionals and master classes. They performed in two final camp performances: a Chamber Ensembles Concert and the String Orchestra Final Performance. Osvaldo Quezada, Evans' Director of Orchestra, helped facilitate these scholarships.

HAPCO's scholarship helped **Josiah Hall** achieve his Music Performance degree from Stetson University. He also earned a minor in Religious Studies. An Orlando native, Josiah has been praised for his sensitivity and ability to communicate music into a spectrum of colors. He is highly active in exploring different timbres of the clarinet and an active supporter of contemporary music as well as interpreting timeless classics.

The 2025 Collaborative Campaign for the Arts by United Arts of Central Florida raised over \$10.33 million in support for 40 arts, science and history organizations. HAPCO is a proud partner agency of this campaign. In Central Florida, the arts create \$500+ million in direct economic benefits, sustain 9,400+ local jobs, and enrich the lives of 600,000+ children through expanded arts education experiences.



The impacts of paying it forward -

Shonna Dannels, band director at Hope / Legacy Charter School, on how our master class with Mickey Smith Jr. helped her in her work to build a lasting band program:

"We were able to implement many of the concepts he shared with the students and myself and they helped to make our first year a great success.

"We retained approximately 95% of the students in band and will be adding over half of the upcoming 7th grade class to our program.

"This year will be about continuing to lay a strong foundation and creating a Legacy band culture. We are also planning on giving back to the community by pairing up with our NJHS to do something special for some of the residents at our local assisted living facilities."















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HAPCO powered the community music series **Music Walk at McCollum Hall** presented by the Fort Myers Community Redevelopment Agency in 2024/2025.

Brandon L. Robertson coordinated the music programs. A HAPCO Clinician, he is an EMMY®-nominated music director, accomplished upright/electric bassist, composer and music educator. Brandon is the John & Dorothy Guigon endowed director of jazz studies at Florida Gulf Coast University.

Featured entertainment were: Brandon Robertson Quintet, FGCU Jazz Ensemble, Naples Philharmonic Youth Jazz Orchestra, Lew Del Gatto Quartet, FGCU Jazz Combo, Vinson "Wordsworth" Johnson, The PK Trio and La Lucha. Sterling Stevenson and Bryant Monteilhan were emcees.

This free quarterly music series spotlights McCollum Hall, as part of HAPCO's community advocacy series Echoes Thru Time. Since 1984, the Fort Myers CRA has spearheaded programs and policies designed to reverse deterioration, create jobs, revitalize the business climate, increase property values, and encourage active participation and investment by citizens.

Built in 1938, McCollum Hall was the centerpiece of commerce, music and entertainment in the Dunbar Community. It was also a popular stop for touring Black entertainers on the Chitlin' Circuit of the 1930s-1950s. It is a catalyst renovation project in promoting redevelopment in the Dr. MLK Blvd. redevelopment area.



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On April 26, we celebrated **International Jazz Day 2025** at the Apopka Amphitheater. The **Eighth Note Collective** entertained with lively jazz classics and originals. They are: Shawn Villanueva on trumpet, Ed Krout on keys, Jose Figueroa on bass, Gerald Law on drums, Caila Carter on vocals and Derrick Harris on trombone. Sterling Stevenson, the Voice of Bragg, emceed the evening's fun.

The free concert was presented by HAPCO and the City of Apopka, as part of their Saturday Sounds series. Funding provided by **The Music Performance Trust Fund** (MPTF). The non-profit's mission includes contributing to the public knowledge and appreciation of music, as well as making music a part of every child's life experience.



In April 2025, the **Orlando** Magic's Share the Magic program gifted two HAP-CO student groups ticket packages for a game with the Atlanta Hawks. Enjoying the game were students from Evans High School's **Music String Department**, chaperoned by Osvaldo Quezada, and the Town of Oakland Youth Group, chaperoned by Adrain Cowan. They also experienced pre-game warm-ups, watching the players get ready for the game, meal vouchers and t-shirts. Programs like this expand our students' world views and understanding of our local communities.

In March 2025, HAPCO Founder Joseph McMullen caught up with **Bruce Antone**, Florida State Representative, District 41 in Tallahassee. Always a great discussion of local and state political thought and action!



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Chef Sage shared tasty bites at the 2025 West Orange Chamber Best Fest in March. HAPCO was voted "Best Business" at the event. We are honored to have such community support in our work.

March 2025: Joseph McMullen attended the **Fifth Annual Daytona Jazz Weekend by the Florida Smooth Jazz Foundation**. Founded by Cathy Powers in 2005, the nonprofit works exclusively for charitable and educational purposes, promoting and producing music events for the greater good of the community. This amazing group has been a long-time HAPCO Community Partner, and has made so many master classes, clinics, scholarships and more student education programs possible.

HAPCO lost a dear friend in February 2025, **State Senator Geraldine Thompson**. She devoted her life's work to her community, championing an environment that helped to lift up individuals, families and businesses. She was committed to preserving the past, making the most of the present and innovating for the future. She will always be an example of what an individual can dream about, act on and achieve.

At the **HAPCO Winter Jazz Band Clinic** at Ocoee High School, middle and high school jazz band students learned from professional clinicians who emphasize individual creativity, team spirit and real-world experience. The free all-day clinic was hosted at Ocoee High School on February 1. It included break out master classes and clinician critique of performances.

The third annual **HAPCO Jazz Fest Ocoee** on January 31 featured the Jim Young Jazz Project and the Ocoee High School Jazz Band. The free outdoor concert, at Ocoee Lakeshore Center, is presented by the City of Ocoee in partnership with HAPCO. The **Wine & Dine for the Arts** featured classic tastes with a Caribbean flair from Sage's Kitchen. Wines provided by West Orange Creamery.

In January, **HAPCO Culinary Clinician Chef Sage** shared tasty bites and cooking healthy tips in Oakland in partnership with **Healthy West Orange**. It was part of **Oakland's Heritage Day** and HWO's Westly's 8th Annual 5K. There were free fitness and cooking demos, games, food and craft vendors, and live music performances.



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Bernie Hendricks, Jr. was a finalist for the 2025 GRAMMY Music Educator Award. He is director of bands at Ocoee High School and a HAPCO clinician. The award honors teachers who have made a significant and lasting contribution to music education and demonstrate a deep commitment to maintaining music programs in schools. The 10 finalists were selected from more than 2,400 nominations submitted from 49 states.

The **AdventHealth's Design and Construction Team** built electric guitars as a team building project. They donated them to HAPCO. We gifted five of them to students Cresbin, Isaiah, Joel, Jayon and Smith at Evans High School so they would have guitars at home to practice with.

Evans High School band students learned about college programs at **Berklee College of Music & Boston Conservatory at Berklee** from Natara Gray, Assistant Dean of Admissions for Diversity and Inclusion Recruitment. She shared details and answered questions on Berklee's programs, the application process, auditions and interviews, financial aid and summer programs. Mario Ford, Evans Director of Bands.

HAPCO scholarship recipient Jhori Ahnae graduated from Berklee NYC in June 2025 with a Master's in Creative Media and Technology. A vocalist, songwriter, producer and arranger, she has set her sights on a career writing and performing in musical theater on Broadway. She received her B.S. in Business Admin from FAMU. She updated us with pictures from graduation events and a note, "Thank you again for your belief in my talents!"



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HAPCO IMPACTS 2024/2025









Mickey Smith, Jr. shared his insights into resilience with his Keep On Going master class at **Hope Charter School** in Ocoee. He talked with band students about making the next sounds the best sounds yet and non-band students about making the next steps the best steps. He dove into the mental health tools needed to feel more resilient, more significant, less fearful, and ready to leverage change for all it is worth. Mickey is a 7x Teacher of the Year and GRAMMY Music Educator Award Recipient. Band Director Shonna Dannels.

Paying it forward, every day in the classroom. Our partner school band directors make an incredible difference in the lives of the young people they teach, mentor and encourage. At the FMEA Conference in January, Joseph McMullen with:

Mario Ford, director of bands, Evans High School
Krystal Campbell-Adkins, director of bands, Oak Ridge High School
Osvaldo Quezada, Director of Orchestra at Evans High School
Naomi Joy Nelson, director of bands, Jones High School
Bernie Hendricks, Jr., Ocoee High School Director of Bands, and
Mickey Smith Jr., educator at The King's Academy, motivational keynote speaker and author

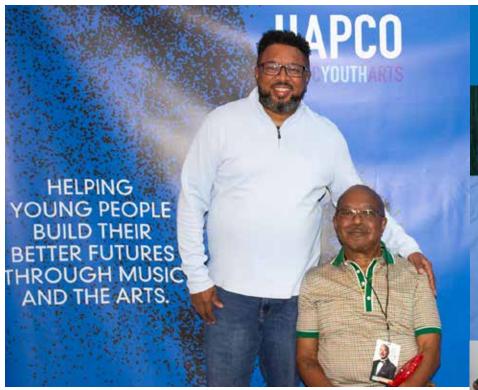
Jeff Rupert, UCF director of jazz studies





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HAPCO hosted its first **Swing & Groove Jazz Party**, kicking off FAMU Homecoming 2024. It was a fun night with incredible jazz from the **Joël Johnson Quartet**. We were thrilled to honor **Dr. Julian E. White**, retired Distinguished Professor of Music, Director of Bands and Chairman of the Music Department at Florida A&M University with our first HAPCO LEGENDS award.

Derrick Harris conducted a master class at the **Jones High School** band camp. A HAPCO clinician, he is the CEO of Eighth Note Productions and a trombonist in the Dr. Phillips Jazz Orchestra. Grammy Nominated Music Educator Naomi J. Nelson is the school's Director of Bands.

In November 2024, HAPCO Founder **Joseph McMullen** spoke at a **City of Ocoee** Commissioners Meeting. He talked about the positive impacts of master classes, clinics, scholarships, public performances, private lessons and instrument donations on young musicians.





IMPACTS

