



RHYTHMS

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

A new school year brings with it an exciting new performance schedule. We have a great variety of shows and exhibits to offer, and hope you'll come see the talent that is Ellington.

September 24:

Museum Studies Exhibit: Opening Reception

September 30:

Student Recital

October 8:

Vocal Honors Recital

October 10:

Variety Show

October 16:

New Washingtonians Jazz Orchestra Concert

October 28

Student Recital

For a more detailed and up-to-date calendar of events, please visit www.ellingtonschool.org or call the Box Office at 202.337.4825

The full performance schedule for the Fall is available [here](#).

TO MAKE A DONATION....
[CLICK HERE](#)

ANNOUNCEMENTS!

AMERICA'S CHARITIES/CFC # 38270



We have joined America's Charities this year to boost our donations from federal employees through the Combined Federal

Campaign. America's Charities has new leadership that is using technology in creative ways and is proactive in getting into workplace giving programs. For all of you federal workers, please look for us under "Duke Ellington School of the Arts" or locate us using our CFC Number which is 38270. This number has changed since last year so please keep this in mind as you fill out your pledge forms. The CFC is a workplace giving program for Federal employees, where they can donate to different organizations through payroll deduction -- an easy way to give to Ellington!

The Ellington Playbill is Selling Ad Space

Each year at this time, parents, friends and staff knock on the doors of businesses to sell ads in Ellington's playbill which is distributed throughout the year to thousands of audience members in the Ellington Theatre. Our theatre hosts more than 25 shows per year and that's a lot of people seeing the playbill.

The playbill raises funds for our various arts departments. If you are connected to a community-spirited business or organization, please ask them to take an ad in our playbill. Contact Sefanit Tekle at 202.333.2555 x2101 or stekle@ellingtonarts.org if you would prefer to

CFC #38270

share with us your contacts. Let's send lots of money to our arts departments this year!

The rate sheet can be viewed [here](#).

ELLINGTON STUDENTS ARE ACCOMPLISHED

The biggest news this summer is that Ellington students passed the DC-CAS proficient standards in math and English and we are one of only a few DC schools that met the No Child Left Behind performance criteria. Our seniors also garnered \$2.8 million in scholarships with 98% of the graduating class getting accepted into colleges, universities and conservatories. Our students excel not only in the arts, but their academic achievement is something to brag about as well.

If you would like to learn more about academic achievements at Ellington, please view our "[Academic Notes](#)"!

STEVIE WONDER GRACES ELLINGTON'S RECORDING STUDIO

Nothing could be more exciting than the legendary Stevie Wonder visiting our school. As a major supporter of the school, with his piano stationed inside our new recording studio, it is no surprise that his presence last week set everyone in the building abuzz. Stevie came to pay his respects to Rory Pullens and Ellen Copley and to discuss a benefit concert for the school in February. While at Ellington, Stevie also recorded a harmonica solo for a larger CD project in Ellington's state-of-the-art recording studio and did it in one take!

"Stevie Unplugged" is guaranteed to be one of the top shows of the year and promises to attract much needed funds for our kids. Look for a "Save the Date" notice once we secure a firm date.



If you or your organization are interested in our sponsorship packages of \$1000 and above, contact Ellen Copley at ecopley@ellingtonarts.org.

Photo: Stevie Wonder and Ellen Copley, Executive Director of The Ellington Fund.

ELLINGTON FOUNDER AND LONGTIME ART COLLECTOR

LOSES HOME TO FIRE



Ellington's co-founder and member of the Ellington Fund board, Peggy Cooper Cafritz is known throughout the District for her dedication to the arts and education. An avid collector of African American art, and supporter of many young, aspiring artists at Ellington and elsewhere, she is a true inspiration to many of us. Her home and extensive art collection were featured in an article in the August issue of Oprah's magazine "O". You can view the article on the Oprah website by clicking [here](#).

Many of you read in the paper about the terrible fire that engulfed Peggy's home this month and there has been a deluge of calls at Ellington asking for her and sending condolences. So many family memories and irreplaceable artwork were lost. The Ellington community is deeply saddened by this event and wish Peggy all of our support and love.

Photo: Peggy Cooper Cafritz

VISUAL ARTS: SUMMER AT ANDERSON RANCH

Four faculty-selected Ellington Visual Arts students participated in this year's program at Anderson Ranch in Aspen, Colorado sponsored by the law firm of DicksteinShapiro. Led by Bill Harris and Kristan Morell from Ellington, the group arrived on June 14th for two weeks of intensive arts training in varied media taught by well-known, established artists.



One of the Ranch's themes is that learning, for artists and everyone, is a lifetime experience. Accordingly, each year the Ellington faculty member who accompanies the group is enrolled in a Ranch course. This year, Bill Harris was enrolled in a two-week course called "Print Process Exploration" in which, despite his many years as an artist and teacher of printmaking, he was exposed to processes that he had never done before.

One of the highlights of the program was a scheduled slide presentation by Bill and the four Ellington students of works that they had done before coming to the Ranch. The hall

was filled by those who were taking a wide variety of courses at the Ranch. The Ellington students, notwithstanding a touch of nervousness, performed admirably, discussing their work with both humor and artistic insight.

"There is always a bit of apprehension as to how the individual Ellington students will react to the Ranch's very different environment," says Sid Dickstein, founding partner of DicksteinShapiro, "but, at least since the second year of the program, we've had no concern whatever as to how the people at the Ranch - - staff, faculty and fellow students - - will react to the Ellington students. The kids are so talented, hard working and polite."

This is the ninth year that the Firm has sponsored this program, and as Bill Harris, the Ellington faculty member who has been here before, said: "The experience at the Ranch gets better each time." Mr. Dickstein is certain that in the nine years that he has been involved with the program, it has opened, not only the world of art, but also the world in general, to 36 gifted kids who would otherwise never have had this opportunity.

Photo: Bill Harris (left) and Sidney Dickstein (right)

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