



# RHYTHMS

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

**April 7-9**  
Senior Recitals

**April 9**  
Visual Arts Faculty Exhibit  
(Opening Reception)

**April 13-15**  
Senior Recitals

**\*\*\*April 29\*\*\***  
Duke Ellington Birthday Concert

**May 6-7**  
"Because": Excerpts from Senior Playwrights  
Dinner Theater

**May 7**  
Visual Arts Exhibit, Senior Show  
(Opening Reception)

**May 10-14**  
Dance Dance Dance: The Ellington Rhythm

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For a more detailed and up-to-date calendar of events, please visit [www.ellingtonschool.org](http://www.ellingtonschool.org) or call the Box Office at **202.337.4825**

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

**TO MAKE A DONATION....**

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## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### Ellington Fund Receives Cafritz Grant

The Morris and Gwendolyn Cafritz Foundation awarded a \$30,000 grant to the Ellington Fund this week to support Duke Ellington's Shepherding Program. This critically important program, headed by John Payne and Donna Hollis, tracks and supports every student in the school to assure that they are successful throughout their Ellington experience and beyond. "The program has been underfunded for a long time," says Ellen Coppley, Executive Director of the Ellington Fund, "and needs a lot of extra support to do its job. The Fund is delighted to be a small part of its successful operation."

### Mayor's Arts Awards

The Mayor's Arts Awards honors individuals and organizations in the DC arts community with the highest cultural award conferred by the District of Columbia. Those nominated have made lasting contributions to DC's cultural community by promoting artistic excellence and elevating the stature of our nation's capital in the arts world.

Among the hundreds of nominees, two Ellington teachers received excellence in arts education awards on March 23rd. Literary Media & Communication chair Mark Williams and Visual Arts teacher Bill Harris are to be commended by colleagues, students and parents for their creativity and dedication.

Congratulations to our teachers for getting recognition in what they do best!

### Dance Dance Dance... The Ellington Rhythm



The Annual Spring Gala hosted by the Dance Department takes place on Friday, May 14, 2010. This year's honorary chair and MC for the evening is News Anchorwoman JC Hayward. Tickets start at \$50. The Gala Reception begins at 6:00pm and is followed by the performance at 7:30pm. Contact Charles Augins, department chair, or Treanna Alexander at 202.337.7938.

## Stevie Wonder Loves Ellington!

A sold-out show, with First Lady Michelle Obama in attendance guaranteed an incredible evening of music and conversation with the one and only Stevie Wonder. This year's Benefit Concert at the Kennedy Center featured an intimate evening with Stevie. Before a crowd of 2200, Stevie treated the audience to old and new tunes, foot stomping favorites, sing-alongs and a great sense of humor. For those of you who were there and were able to enjoy the performance, you know that it was a performance to be remembered.



Audience members said that "it was like he was in my living room singing only for me!" For those of you who were unable to attend but sent in contributions, we thank you for your support and wish you could have been there to share the magical evening!

The After Party for our sponsors, VIP ticket holders and other special guests was a blast. Reporters crowded around Stevie just to get a moment with him. Music was provided by Ellington's own jazz orchestra, The New Washingtonians, and Stevie surprised everyone by taking a stroll through the party-goers, stopping here and there for a chat and posing for pictures!

All in all it was a very successful evening and a lucrative one as well! Without your support and commitment to our students, we would not have been able to make this event the success that it was. Thank you!

*Picture: Sarai Reed, Literary Media & Communications '11, Presenting Stevie with her braille poem "Made from Love"*

## Support The Ellington Arts Fund



On February 25, Ellington hosted a press conference featuring the legendary Philadelphia International Records' music producers and Rock and Roll Hall of Fame members Kenny Gamble and Leon Huff. They travelled all the way from Philadelphia to announce a major capital campaign in support of arts education. Chuck D of the platinum-selling Hip Hop group Public Enemy and Grammy Award-winner Chrisette Michele also attended to show their support.

"This kind of support from both music legends and today's stars continues to astound and motivate our young developing artists. This inspires our staff and students to seek an even higher level of excellence," said Rory Pullens, Head of School and CEO of the Duke Ellington School of the Arts. "This is only the beginning of an ongoing, national collaboration of committed artists, public officials, corporate citizens, parents and the full community."

Participants Chrisette Michele and Chuck D will return to DC for two benefit concerts. They will also participate in Ellington's "The Business of Entertainment" Classroom Series. "This nexus of ideas, support and action allows Ellington's students to gain the full understanding of a career in

the arts. It's invaluable," said Dean of Arts Tia P. Harris. To date, the school has hosted engaging lectures from top-notch industry pros including Grammy Award-winning recording artist Ledesi and film producer Lisa Cortez whose critically acclaimed film *Precious* was nominated for an Oscar.

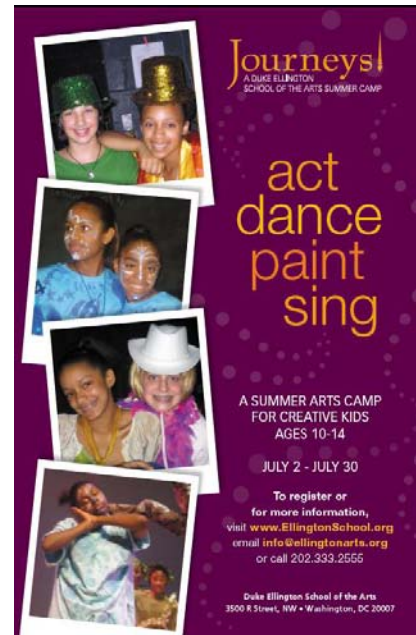
*Picture: Chuck D of Public Enemy*

## We Are Looking for Artsy Kids to Engage in the Ellington Experience

Do you have, or know, a 10-14 year old who loves the arts? Someone who wants to spend the summer painting, singing, dancing and acting? A child who is artistic, creative and ready to work hard? Sign them up now for Duke Ellington's summer camp JOURNEYS!

The camp runs from July 2 to July 30, 2010 and will be directed by veteran artist and teacher Carol Foster. Your child will spend four weeks under her wing and her highly qualified staff, working towards a final production which will include works from Broadway hits such as *Rent*, *Hair*, *High School Musical* and *Lion King*! This is a rigorous program for kids who really want to learn what it's like to participate in a full production.

Don't miss out on this opportunity to immerse your child in an enriching program that will help them evolve in the arts. Sign up today by visiting our website at [www.ellingtonschool.org](http://www.ellingtonschool.org).



## Ellington Students Spice up Events!



Joe Green, the Ellington Fund's Director of Institutional Giving, has been promoting Ellington across the city in hopes of garnering support for the school. On February 18th he attended a reception hosted by the Associated Luxury Hotels International (AHLI) at the US Chamber of Commerce. This event brought hoteliers and potential clients together from all over the country. Art by Ellington students was displayed and sold-out long before the conclusion of the reception. The Visual Arts department received a percentage of the funds raised that evening and we hope this is the beginning of a long and lucrative partnership. . If you would like to showcase student art, please contact Tia Harris, Dean of Arts, at [TiaHari@gmail.com](mailto:TiaHari@gmail.com) . Students can also be booked for vocal and instrumental gigs ([click here for descriptions](#)) by using our online form on the website [www.ellingtonschool.org](http://www.ellingtonschool.org) and following the quicklink "*Performance Request*".



*Pictures: Top- David Gabri, President of ALHI (left), and Joe Green (Right); and Bottom- Art by Ellington Students*

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