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**HARLEM SCHOOL OF THE ARTS
THE HERB ALPERT CENTER**

THE HARLEM SCHOOL OF THE ARTS CELEBRATES THEIR FALL 2013 BENEFIT AT JAZZ AT LINCOLN CENTER
*Honorees Include Janice Savin Williams & Christopher J. Williams, Gina Torres & Lawrence J. Fishburne III
and Ford Foundation*

NEW YORK, October 5, 2013 – On Tuesday, October 8, the **Harlem School of the Arts (HSA)** celebrates their Fall 2013 Benefit at Jazz at Lincoln Center’s Allen Room.

Support of the iconic intuition has been monumental this past year. On March 11, 2013, the facility was renamed ‘The Herb Alpert Center’ in recognition of gifts totaling \$6,000,000 from The Herb Alpert Foundation. Mr. Alpert continues to support the school, and is the Lead Chair of the 2013 Fall Benefit.

The evening’s Master of Ceremonies is David Ushery, Host of The Debrief on WNBC.

AWARD PRESENTATIONS Include:

The **LEADERSHIP AWARD**, Presented by Commissioner Kate D. Levin, Department of Cultural Affairs will be presented to Janice Savin Williams & Christopher J. Williams.

The **PHILANTHROPY AWARD**, Presented by Rona Sebastian, President, Herb Alpert Foundation, will be presented to the Ford Foundation and accepted by Darren Walker.

The **VISIONARY ARTIST AWARD** will be presented to actors Gina Torres & Lawrence J. Fishburne III.

“I’m thrilled to celebrate these exceptional honorees - who in their own unique ways - are making it possible for us as HSA to continue bringing the arts to children every single day. For nearly 50 years The Harlem School of the Arts has made it their stellar mission to enrich the lives of children through the arts, and every honoree, performer, student and attendee is helping make that mission a reality, says Yvette L. Campbell, HSA President & CEO, of the Fall 2013 Benefit.

MUSIC and DANCE PERFORMANCES Include:

“The Prayer”

Solo Pianist - Warner Meadows

HSA Students: Deja Anderson, Kendal Carter, Naomi Christiansen, Makila Cooke, Errick Grubbs, Jahir Hipps, Naya Lovell, Jaden Michael, Khayr Muhammad, Wander Sanchez, Amar Smalls, Aiyana Smash, Brandon Trent, Allegra Vacin, Gary Walker, Taliyah Whittaker

“Manteca”

Piano - Arturo O’Farrill, HSA Artist in Residence with the Fat Cats Youth Orchestra & HSA Students
Flute/Alto Sax – Gabrielle Garo; Drums – Dominique Gervais; Maximo Gonzalez – Congas; Zack Heinze – Bass; Gabe Nathanson – Trumpet

Complete Details Below:

What: Harlem School of the Arts’ (HSA) Fall 2013
Benefit

Who:

- Yvette L. Campbell, HSA President & CEO
- David Ushery, Host of The Debrief, WNBC
- Janice Savin Williams, HSA Board Member & Co-Founder and Senior Principal of The Williams Capital Group, L.P.
- Christopher J. Williams, CEO and founder of The Williams Capital Group
- Gina Torres, Actor
- Lawrence J. Fishburne III, Actor
- Darren Walker, President, Ford Foundation
- Arturo O’Farrill, Musician and Composer

When: Tuesday, October 8th from 5:30pm – 9pm

- Red Carpet: 5:30 – 6:30pm
- Media Check-in begins at 5:00pm

Where: Jazz at Lincoln Center’s Allen Room
(Broadway, NYC – Between W 59th and W 60th Streets)

About The Harlem School of the Arts:

For nearly a half-century, the Harlem School of the Arts (HSA) has transformed the lives of tens of thousands of young people. Located in Harlem’s historic Hamilton Heights, this pioneering, world-class institution brings together music, dance, theatre, visual arts, and musical theatre instruction under one roof. Serving young people, ages 2 to 18, from the under-served communities of Harlem, across New York City, New Jersey and Westchester County, HSA leverages its reputation for excellence and roster of celebrated alumni to empower youths and constantly revitalize its surrounding community.

For more information about Harlem School of the Arts, visit www.hsanyc.org.

Brief Honoree Biographies:

JANICE SAVIN WILLIAMS, LEADERSHIP AWARD Janice Savin Williams is a Co-Founder and Senior Principal of The Williams Capital Group, L.P. Established in 1994 by Ms. Savin Williams and husband Christopher, Williams Capital is a full service investment banking firm that serves institutional investors and corporations worldwide in the fixed income and equity capital markets.

CHRISTOPHER J. WILLIAMS, LEADERSHIP AWARD Christopher J. Williams is Chairman, CEO and founder of The Williams Capital Group, L.P. and Williams Capital Management, LLC. Mr. Williams began his career with Lehman Brothers in New York, where he was a Senior Vice President with responsibilities in debt capital markets, derivatives and fixed income securities trading. In 1994, Mr. Williams founded The Williams Capital Group and has since directed the firm's strategic effort in investment banking and its expansion into asset management.

PHILANTHROPY AWARD, ACCEPTED BY DARREN WALKER

The Ford Foundation supports visionary leaders and organizations on the frontlines of social change worldwide. We believe all people should have the opportunity to reach their full potential, contribute to society and have voice in the decisions that affect them.

Our goals for more than half a century have been to:

- Strengthen democratic values
- Reduce poverty and injustice
- Promote international cooperation
- Advance human achievement

GINA TORRES, VISIONARY ARTIST AWARD

Gina Torres stars on USA Network's hit original series *Suits*, which is currently in the middle of its third season. Developed by Aaron Korsh ("The Deep End") and executive-produced by Doug Liman, the show follows a prestigious Manhattan corporate lawyer who teams up with a street-smart college dropout.

LAURENCE J. FISHBURNE III, VISIONARY ARTIST AWARD

Laurence J. Fishburne III stars in *Hannibal* as Jack Crawford, head of the FBI's Behavioral Science Unit. His mission is to apprehend the most vicious serial killers known to man and his most valuable weapon is profiler Will Graham (Hugh Dancy). Fishburne has amassed an impressive body of work not only as an actor but also as a producer and director. In 1992, he won a Tony, a Drama Desk Award, an Outer Critic's Circle Award and a Theater World Award for his portrayal of Sterling Johnson in August Wilson's *Two Trains Running*. His appearance in the 1993 premiere episode of Fox TV's *Tribeca* landed him an Emmy Award. And to complete the Triple Crown, he was nominated for an Oscar in 1993 for his portrayal of Ike Turner in *What's Love Got to Do With It*.

For interview and other media requests, contact:

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