

Herbie Hancock and Dee Dee Bridgewater Deliver A Master Class To Jazz Students



16 May 2012 became a milestone in the Academy's jazz life. Two great American musicians, a famous pianist, composer and bandleader, Herbie Hancock, and a three-time Grammy Award winning singer-songwriter, Dee Dee Bridgewater, gave a gorgeous jazz master class in playing and jamming. The event was directed by prominent conductor, composer, pianist and arranger, Prof. Anatoly Kroll in the framework of the International Jazz Day UNESCO project, Herbie Hancock being UNESCO Good Will Ambassador.

Besides the two masters, Academy hosted their band with Ben Williams (bass), Otis Brown (drums), Walter Smith (sax), Mike Rodriguez (trumpet) and Gerald Clayton (piano). The guests were shown several compositions performed by academic jazz bands led by Anatoly Kroll and those led by two brilliant jazz performers and teachers, saxophonists, Prof. Alexander Oseichuk and Igor Butman. Academic vocalists, 2010 Audience Award and 2nd Prize winner at the Shure Montreux Jazz Voice Competition in Montreux, Switzerland, Yuliana Rogacheva and fast rising star Olga Sinyaeva displayed their jazz singing skills.



The star guests were deeply impressed by the young Russian musicians' cohesiveness, stage presence, performance, skills, compositions and arrangements.

Here are some memorable comments on the occurring event.

Dee Dee Bridgewater: "This was not what we expected. It's an amazing "sample" of enthusiasm and creativity. There were a lot of surprises. The students express themselves in a fantastic way! The performance was perfect, wonderful, the tightness of musicians being phenomenal. I've had an opportunity to visit Russia on several occasions and I've experienced musicianship and experience level of Russian performers. However, I've never thought that the musical level of



Academy students is so advanced... If students play in such a way, then how do their teachers play?"

(about female vocal) "Let's go to the singers. It's WOW! You properly sing from the diaphragm. I don't understand where you get your precision while swinging! I'm always glad to see an extra-challenge for women in music – to be a

woman in jazz."

(to *Y. Rogacheva*): Your composition was complicated and the melody was beautiful. Your music brought a new life to American poet Sarah Teasdale's lyrics."

(to *O. Sinyaeva*): "I'm so honored that the song you've sung was once dedicated to me. It's extraordinary, remarkable. You have the ability to hear your voice and to use it as an instrument."

Ben Williams: "I forgot that I was at school. I was thinking I was in a nightclub and asking myself, "Where's my drink?" Actually, stage presence, performance, compositions, arrangements were great! Can I enroll in your school?"

Herbie Hancock:

"Music is not just a number of notes. It's meaning that makes music. People want to hear about their life. Music expresses life. Life is space. Space is a very important part of music."

Having discussed the students' performance, guest musicians played themselves, presenting the wowing audience a real artistic wonder. At the end of a small jam session the delicate musicians escaped from the stage, leaving for younger generation more space to make music.

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See more about Herbie Hancock:

<http://www.herbiehancock.com/home.php>

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Herbie_Hancock

Herbie Hancock's jazz master classes at UNESCO headquarters (2012).

http://www.unesco.org/archives/multimedia/index.php?s=films_details&id_page=33&id_film=2380

See more about Dee Dee Bridgewater: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dee_Dee_Bridgewater

<http://www.deedeebridgewater.com/>

<http://jazztimes.com/guides/artists/550-dee-dee-bridgewater>

Dee Dee Bridgewater's master class at the Virgil H. Carr Center (2010)

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=p5GkFRSeCD0>

Photo references:

<http://muslib.ru/b172202/Herbie+Hancock+Trio/%D1%84%D0%BE%D1%82%D0%BE/227890>

<http://www.boti.ru/node/79541>

<http://www.decca.com/artists/dee-dee-bridgewater-12522>