

Lafayette Jefferson High School Announces Inaugural Class of Performing Arts Hall of Fame

Lafayette Jefferson High School is proud to announce the inaugural class of the **Jefferson High School Performing Arts Hall of Fame**, recognizing alumni whose exceptional accomplishments in the arts have brought distinction to their school, community, and professions. The 2025 inductees represent excellence across music, theatre, and dance, with careers spanning Broadway, symphony halls, and classrooms around the world.

The Inaugural Inductees

Vinéecia Buchanan (Class of 2008) – Vocalist/Educator of Jazz Studies

A versatile jazz and classical vocalist, Vinéecia Buchanan is an Adjunct Professor of Jazz Voice at Vanderbilt University's Blair School of Music. She has appeared as a featured soloist with the Nashville Symphony Chorus, debuted internationally in Edinburgh with the Scottish National Orchestra Chorus, and sung in major productions with the Nashville Opera Chorus. A recipient of *DownBeat* magazine's prestigious Graduate Student Music Award, Buchanan continues to inspire students and audiences alike as a performer, recording artist, and educator.

Aaron Glick (Class of 2002) – Broadway Producer

Aaron Glick is a Tony and Olivier Award-winning producer. Broadway, Touring, and West End Credits include: *Purpose*, *A Wrinkle in Time* (Upcoming – Arena Stage), *Hello, Dolly!* (West End), *Next to Normal* (West End), *Sweeney Todd* (Tony Nomination), *Kimberly Akimbo* (Tony Award), *What the Constitution Means to Me* (Tony Nomination), & *Juliet* (West End only), *The Boys in the Band* (Tony Award), *Fully Committed*, *Gypsy* (Olivier Award), and *The Old Man and the Old Moon*. Aaron is also a producer with David Stone and has worked on such shows as: *Three Days of Rain*, *The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee*, *Next to Normal*, *If/Then*, *War Paint*, the Tony-Winning *Topdog/Underdog*, and all productions of *Wicked*. Aaron is a Full Member of the Broadway League, a graduate of Marymount Manhattan College, and the recipient of Hal Prince's T Fellowship.

Brock Clawson (Class of 1994) – Dancer/Choreographer

An award-winning choreographer, Brock Clawson has had works commissioned by the Joffrey Ballet, Giordano Dance Chicago, Milwaukee Ballet, and Houston Metropolitan Dance Company. A former dancer who toured nationally and internationally, he later served as Artistic Associate of Thodos Dance Chicago. Clawson has received the Dance Chicago Outstanding Choreography Award and Chicago's Cliff Dwellers Choreographer of the Year Award, and was featured in the Emmy-winning PBS documentary *Dance for Life Chicago*. His work has drawn acclaim from *The Wall Street Journal*, *Chicago Tribune*, and *Huffington Post*.

Norma Brooks (Class of 1972) – Orchestral Double Bass/Educator

An accomplished double bassist and teacher, based in the Netherlands, Norma Brooks has performed with major ensembles around the world, including the Rotterdam Philharmonic, Iceland Symphony, Symphony of India, and the Netherlands Radio Chamber Philharmonic. She served as Principal Bass with Sinfonia Rotterdam and the State of Mexico Symphony and has taught at conservatories and music schools across Europe. Fluent in multiple languages and Suzuki-

certified, Brooks has dedicated her career to both performance and education, shaping the next generation of string musicians.

Robert Wood (Class of 1970) – *Orchestral & Jazz Trumpet/Educator*

Robert Wood enjoyed a distinguished career as a trumpet performer, educator, and contractor. A longtime member of the Indianapolis Symphony Orchestra, he also performed with the Houston Ballet, Miami Chamber Symphony, and leading popular artists. He taught at Butler University and the University of Indianapolis. In 1980, Wood earned national praise for his portrayal of jazz legend Bix Beiderbecke in the Indiana Repertory Theatre's *Hoagy, Bix and Wolfgang Beethoven Bunkhaus*. His artistry, versatility, and leadership have made him a respected figure in the music world and a proud representative of Jefferson's tradition of excellence in the performing arts.

Donald Ambler (Class of 1947) – *Orchestral Clarinet/Educator*

The late Donald Ambler built a remarkable career as a clarinetist, teacher, and mentor. Rising from challenging beginnings in Lafayette, he became bass clarinetist with the Denver (now Colorado) Symphony Orchestra, a position he held for 30 years. Ambler also founded the Colorado Clarinet Choir, judged national competitions, and mentored students who went on to join the New York Philharmonic, Boston Symphony, and the U.S. Marine Band. Known for his generosity, he often taught without charge and provided instruments to students in need. His legacy of artistry and mentorship continues through the Don Ambler Clarinet Choir.

This inaugural class reflects the very best of our performing arts legacy at Jefferson High School. Each inductee has achieved extraordinary success while also inspiring others through their artistry and leadership. We are proud to honor them as role models for current and future students.

Several members of the inaugural class will be in attendance providing workshops and clinics at Jefferson High School on Friday, November 14. "This is a chance to showcase to our students, school leaders, and the Lafayette community just how powerful a foundation in the arts can be," said Mr. Tyler Long, Performing Arts Department Chair at Jefferson High School.

"Your past support of the Jefferson High School Performing Arts Department has helped shape countless young lives," said Mr. Tom Barker, retired Jefferson Director of Bands and Performing Arts Department head, who will chair the newly created Hall of Fame. "We hope you'll consider joining us in this next exciting chapter."

The **Performing Arts Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony** will take place on **Saturday, November 15, 2025, at Jefferson High School's Richard Jaeger Theatre**, preceding the school's performance of *The Wizard of Oz*. The event will celebrate these outstanding individuals and their contributions to the arts.

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