

COMMUNITIES IN SCHOOLS OF DELAWARE

SATURDAY
SEPT. 12 | 7:30 P.M.

AN EVENING OF
ARTISTIC
Magic



Communities
In Schools®

Delaware



Supporting Our Friends at
Communities in Schools of Delaware

AN EVENING OF
**ARTISTIC
MAGIC**



Santora CPA Group
Right, By Your Side



BEING PRESENT MATTERS

Brief History

Surrounding Students with Support. Empowering Them to Succeed Since 1992

OUR MISSION

To surround students with a community of support, empowering them to stay in school and achieve in life.

OUR KEY FOCUS AREAS

STUDENT SUCCESS

Supporting academic achievement, engagement, and positive outcomes.

ATTENDANCE & ENGAGEMENT

Helping students overcome barriers to being present, connected, and ready to learn.

SOCIAL & EMOTIONAL WELL-BEING

Providing caring relationships and supports that promote resilience and healthy development.

BASIC NEEDS & FAMILY SUPPORT

Connecting students and families with essential resources and services.

COLLEGE, CAREER & WORKFORCE READINESS

Preparing young people for success beyond graduation.

FAMILY & COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS

Bringing together schools, families, businesses, and community organizations to support students.

OUR COMMITMENT

Every student deserves someone who believes in them, resources that support them, and opportunities that help them reach their full potential. When we surround students with support, we empower them to stay in school and achieve in life.

In Loving Memory



Cameron Rahshad Dansby



January 12, 1978 – September 12, 2023

We Support Communities In Schools of Delaware!



A Beloved Son, Brother, Grandson, Nephew,
Cousin, and Friend Extraordinaire Who Is Missed
So Much!

♥FOREVER IN OUR HEARTS♥

Alice and Chevon Dansby

COMMUNITIES IN SCHOOLS OF DELAWARE

AN EVENING OF

ARTISTIC *Magic*

SATURDAY

SEPT. 12 | 7:30 P.M.

Artists Line-Up

MAYA BELARDO

THE PRINCESS OF JAZZ™

— 2024 DELAWARE DIVISION OF THE ARTS FELLOW

JOSE CARMONA III

SAXOPHONIST & CHRISTIAN RECORDING ARTIST

— NASHVILLE-RECORDED, WORSHIP LEADER AT SCARLET NOTE

TAHIR CLAY

GOSPEL VOCALIST

— FEATURED ON "JESUS (THOMAS CLAY TRIBUTE)" WITH RICH TOLBERT JR.

TRINITY EVANS

HAMPTON UNIVERSITY HONORS MUSICIAN

— ACTRESS, DANCER & SINGER, BROADWAY DREAMS SUMMER APPRENTICE

KHARI HAYDEN

SAXOPHONIST & RECORDING ARTIST

— MAIN STREET NEWARK'S SIGNATURE SOUND

JACKSON HAYES

BROADWAY PERFORMER

— YOUNG SIMBA IN DISNEY'S THE LION KING NATIONAL TOUR, YOUNG MICHAEL JACKSON IN MJ: THE MUSICAL

KENNETH "KJ" JOHNSON

ACTOR & THEATER PERFORMER

— YOUNG SIMBA IN DISNEY'S LION KING BROADWAY

PYERCE OATES

MINISTER OF MUSIC, ORGANIST & PIANIST

— CLINICIAN & WORSHIP DIRECTOR

GUEST MC - "BLAKETHEBRAIN"

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Artistical Magic Performances

Host with a Magical Flare – BlakeTheBrain

Magical Instruments Prelude The John G. Coley Quintet

Intro to Magic Carlton Lampkins, CISDE, President

A Magical Star Jackson Hayes, Vocalist

Soulful Magic Khari Hayden, Saxophonist

Voice of Magic Maya Belardo, Vocalist

Keys of Magic Pyerce Oates, Pianist

Magical Pipes Trinity Evans, Vocalist

Intermission

Guest Artist – Movement in Magic, La-Chelle Dickenson, Dancer

A Magical Star Jackson Hayes

Smooth Magic Jose Carmona III, Saxophonist

Two Doses of Magic Maya Belardo & Trinity Evans, Vocalists

Double Magic Jackson Hayes & KJ, Vocalists

Three Voices, One Magic Jackson, KJ, & Tahir, Vocalists

A Final Touch of Magic



Jackson Hayes

Jackson Hayes is a talented young performer, actor, and creative leader whose work has taken him to stages and screens across the country. He made his national touring debut as Young Simba in Disney's *The Lion King* National Tour and went on to make his Broadway debut as Little Michael Jackson in *MJ the Musical*.

Jackson has also lent his voice to major productions, providing background vocals for *Wicked* and *Wicked for Good*. His television credits include portraying Marlon Jackson in NBC's *Motown Christmas Special* and Zip in PBS's *The Good Neighbor Club*.

Beyond performing, Jackson is passionate about creating opportunities for the next generation of young artists. He is the founder of The Open Call Collective (OCC), a creative community designed to give young performers opportunities to connect, collaborate, grow, and practice their talents in a supportive environment.

Through OCC, Jackson is using his own experiences in the entertainment industry to help other young performers find their voice, build confidence, and create community.

Jackson's upcoming production, OCC Christmas Kickoff, brings young performers together to celebrate the season and showcase their talent.

Learn more at JustJacksonHayes.com or follow along on his journey JustJacksonHayes. For more information regarding OCC, visit TheOpenCallCollective.com.



Jose Carmona III

From the moment José Carmona III picked up a saxophone at the age of eight, he discovered not just an instrument, but a profound passion that would shape his life. His talent quickly became evident as he emerged as the top saxophone player in his class. Growing up in a musical family, José joined his parents in the church choir led by his grandfather, where he developed his ability to improvise melodies, relying on his natural gift and ear for music rather than sheet music.

Jos'és musical journey began to take off when he won a local talent show hosted by the Omega Psi Phi Fraternity in Wilmington while he was in the ninth grade. His remarkable performance led him to compete again in Philadelphia, eventually culminating in a performance at the Bill Clinton Presidential Library in Little Rock, Arkansas.

In April 2008, José claimed first place in the same talent competition for the third time, prompting his parents to invest further in his music career. This led to the recording of his self-titled debut CD in Nashville.

However, Jos'és journey was not without challenges. After being diagnosed with Multiple Sclerosis, he faced severe mobility issues, yet he refused to allow his diagnosis to stop him from pursuing his purpose. Just two months after his diagnosis, José recorded his first album while propped up on a stool powerful demonstration of his determination, perseverance, and faith.

In 2010, José headlined the Clifford Brown Jazz Festival. Then, in March 2012, just three months before releasing his inspirational CD, "No More Night," José found himself in a hospital bed, unable to move his hands or walk. Nevertheless, he held firmly to his faith, overcame tremendous obstacles, and returned to performing with renewed passion, using his gift to touch lives through music.

In 2015, José pursued further education at Full Sail University, where he studied under some of the industry's best professionals. He graduated in 2018 with a bachelor's degree in Audio Production. Since then, José has shared the stage with renowned artists such as Avery Sunshine, Smokie Norful, and Lonnie Hunter. He has also provided live sound for performers including SWV, Jon B., and Dante Bowe.

Today, José is not only a dedicated musician but also a proud husband and father of two. He continues to travel, sharing his music and personal testimony while spreading a message of hope, mercy, and salvation through Jesus Christ.



Kenneth KJ Johnson

KENNETH E. JOHNSON JR. “KJ” is a Delaware-based actor, singer, author, and performer who has had a passion for the stage since the age of six. A second-generation actor and singer, KJ has grown from performing in local theater productions to appearing on the Broadway stage as **Young Simba in Disney’s *The Lion King***.

KJ began developing his craft through numerous productions with the **Wilmington Drama League**, including *Shrek Jr.*, *The Wonderful World of Oz*, *Seussical Jr.*, and *Frozen Jr.* He currently attends **Cab Calloway School of the Arts as a vocal major, Class of 2029**, where his theater credits include featured roles as **Lumière in *Beauty and the Beast*** and **the Narrator in *Once Upon a One More Time***.

KJ’s love for music extends beyond musical theater. He has performed as a **solo vocalist in New York cabarets** and was recently featured as a singer for multiple nights of the **Clifford Brown Jazz Festival in Wilmington, Delaware**, continuing to expand his experience as a live vocalist and entertainer.

Beyond performing, KJ is the bestselling author of the children’s book **3 Little Piggy Banks**, which introduces young readers to the basics of financial literacy. His work as a young author has also featured *Good Day Philadelphia*.

Whether performing on Broadway, singing, stepping into a character on the theatrical stage, or creating his own work, KJ continues to pursue his passion for entertaining, creating, and inspiring others.



Khari “Khayden” Hayden

Khari Hayden, professionally known as Khayden, is a saxophonist, experiential artist, and community builder based in Newark, Delaware. His artistry spans multiple forms of creative expression, blending music, storytelling, and curated experiences to create meaningful connections that go beyond entertainment.

A 2014 graduate of William Penn High School, Khayden initially pursued higher education but found that the traditional academic path didn't align with his vision for a fulfilling future. Instead, he embarked on a journey of self-guided learning, exploring philosophy, musical techniques, production, photography, and creative direction through online study and real-world experience. This unconventional path led him to develop a style that is raw, textured, and deeply personal—unrefined by traditional constraints yet uniquely expressive in its depth and emotion.

After a life-changing car accident in 2018, Khayden made the bold decision to pursue his creative passions full-time, leaving behind corporate retail work to fully commit to his craft.

Beyond live performances, Khayden has cultivated a strong online presence, reaching audiences worldwide through digital platforms. Through live-streaming, social media, and online content creation, he has connected with thousands of listeners, proving that music's impact extends far beyond the stage. His ability to engage both in-person and virtual audiences highlights the universal nature of his artistry and its ability to resonate across different spaces.

But music is just one part of his larger vision—a vision that comes to life through The Sax 'n' Sip, an experience that started as a live performance series and evolved into a movement centered around community, connection, and creativity. What began to merge live music with tea culture has transformed into something bigger: a “CommuniTEA” company that fosters meaningful relationships through shared experiences. The Sax 'n' Sip is not about selling tea—it is about inspiring people to build stronger, more connected communities through art, conversation, and culture.

Beyond music and The Sax 'n' Sip, Khayden expresses his artistry through creative direction, immersive experiences, and mentorship. He believes that artistry is a cycle of teaching and learning, and that collaboration is the key to growth. Whether through live performances, event curation, or storytelling through film and photography, he continues to push himself to work with and uplift others, sharing knowledge while learning from those around him.



La-Chelle Dickinson

La-Chelle M Dickinson (Delaware) has studied at acclaimed dance institutions such as Dance Theatre of Harlem and The Ailey School. Ms. Dickinson received her Bachelor of Fine Arts, in Dance Performance and Choreography from Towson University (TU). She was a member of the TU Dance Company with whom she worked with world-renowned choreographers such as Linda-Denise Fisher-Harrell, Runqiao Du, Amy Hall Garner, Vincent Thomas, Darrell Moultrie, and Kim Bears-Bailey. Throughout her career, Ms. Dickinson has been a performing member of Pieces of a Dream- PD2, The Wilmington Ballet, B. Moore Dance, DANCE IQUAIL!, the Roxey Ballet, and Sharing Our Legacy Dance Theatre. She is currently the Director of AileyCamp New York.



Maya Belardo

Maya Belardo is a **jazz vocalist and composer from Wilmington, Delaware**, widely known as “**The Princess of Jazz**” for her passion, artistry, and dedication to revitalizing the genre for younger audiences.

Belardo fell in love with jazz at age 12 after hearing Nat King Cole’s “*Nature Boy*”, and began performing professionally by 17, including at the **Clifford Brown Jazz Festival** in her hometown. Her debut single, “*Free*”, pays homage to legendary jazz artists and her ancestors.

In 2022, she participated in the **Boysie Lowery Living Residency**, working with top jazz industry professionals and attending songwriting workshops. She was also accepted into **Jazz Philadelphia’s CORE Cooperative**, a community hub for jazz musicians

Belardo has performed at major East Coast venues such as **SOUTH Jazz Parlor, The Kimmel Center, The Queen, The Grand Opera House**, and the **Jazz Philadelphia Summit**. She has also performed internationally, including a residency at the prestigious **Bamboo Bar in Bangkok, Thailand** from March–June 2024. In 2025, she joined the **Recording Academy**.

She has received multiple awards, including:

- **Clifford Brown Young and Swinging Award** (2021)
- **Delaware Creative of the Year** (2023)
- **Established Fellow for Jazz Performance** (Delaware Division of the Arts, 2024)
- **Homey Award – Best Jazz Song** (*Better Days*, 2025) .

Belardo blends **classic jazz inspiration with original compositions**, arranging contemporary songs in a jazzy, exciting style. Her 2025 EP *Better Days* is now streaming.

She is committed to making jazz more accessible, especially to younger generations, and has curated live shows for community audiences. Belardo believes in the power of music as a form of healing and aims to make jazz mainstream again.

Where to Find Her Work

- **Website:** mayabelardo.com



Pyerce Oates

Pyerce L. Oates, a native of Wilmington, Delaware, possesses a deep-rooted passion for music ministry and education. His musical journey began at the age of two, picking out tunes he heard either in church or around the house on the piano. That skill led to his role as a church pianist for Mount Tabor A.M.E Zion Church at just seven years old.

He further developed his skills as a piano major at Cab Calloway School of the Arts before earning a bachelor's degree in music with a concentration in piano from Claflin

University. During his time at Claflin, Pyerce served as President and student accompanist for the Concert Choir. Pyerce recently accepted the Choral Director position at Glasgow High School in Newark, Delaware, and serves as the organist and choir director at Mother Bethel A.M.E. Church of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. Pyerce is also a member of the Northern Delaware Chapter of the Gospel Music Workshop of

America. Within the G.M.W.A, Pyerce works on the local and national level, as a clinician for workshops at local churches and community choirs, and on the national level as organist for the James Cleveland Chorus, Robert Fryson Chorale, and Thurston Frazier Chorale.



Tahir Clay

Tahir Clay is an anointed, rising vocalist and performer with a passion for the stage. A vocal major at Cab Calloway School of the Arts, Tahir blends his love for singing and acting in an emerging career. Tahir has performed in various stage productions including his latest appearance in the Wilmington Drama League's production of Hairspray. Drawing inspiration from his father, the late Thomas TC Clay who was an amazingly gifted singer, musician, and actor, Tahir continues a family tradition of musical excellence, bringing his unique artistry and energy to every performance!



Trinity Evans

Trinity Evans is a rising senior at illustrious Hampton University, where she is pursuing a Bachelor of Arts degree in Music Performance with a concentration in Voice. She currently serves as the 2026–2027 Hampton University Choir President, Miss Phi Mu Alpha Sinfonia Fraternity of America, Inc. – Pi Beta Chapter, and Miss Hampton Players. During the 2025–2026 academic year, she proudly represented her organizations as Miss University Choir and Miss ACE (Artists, Creatives & Engineers). Trinity also made history as Miss Juneteenth Delaware 2022, becoming the 25th queen crowned in the program's 29-year history. A dedicated scholar and campus leader, she is a member of the Freddie T. Davy Honors College, National Council of Negro Women (NCNW), Alpha Psi Omega National Theatre Honor Society, Sister to Sister, Hampton Players, Hampton University Choir, Concert Choir, and Artists, Creatives & Engineers (ACE). She also serves her community as a volunteer with the REA-D Foundation. While at Hampton University, Trinity has distinguished herself as a gifted performer, most notably portraying Ti Moune in *Once on This Island*, Lorrell Robinson in *Dreamgirls*, and Celie in *The Color Purple*. Her musical journey has provided opportunities to perform on both national and international stages. She traveled to London, England, with the Hampton University Choir and spent two summers studying and performing in Paris, France. Additionally, she has highlighted her talents in New York, Philadelphia, and Atlanta through Broadway Dreams, further developing her artistry and passion for performance. Through her leadership, scholarship, and dedication to the arts, Trinity continues to make a meaningful impact both on campus and beyond.



Magical Instruments – The John G. Coley Quintet

John G. Coley, Band Leader and Drummer

Barry Boyd – Bassist

James Corum – Saxophonist

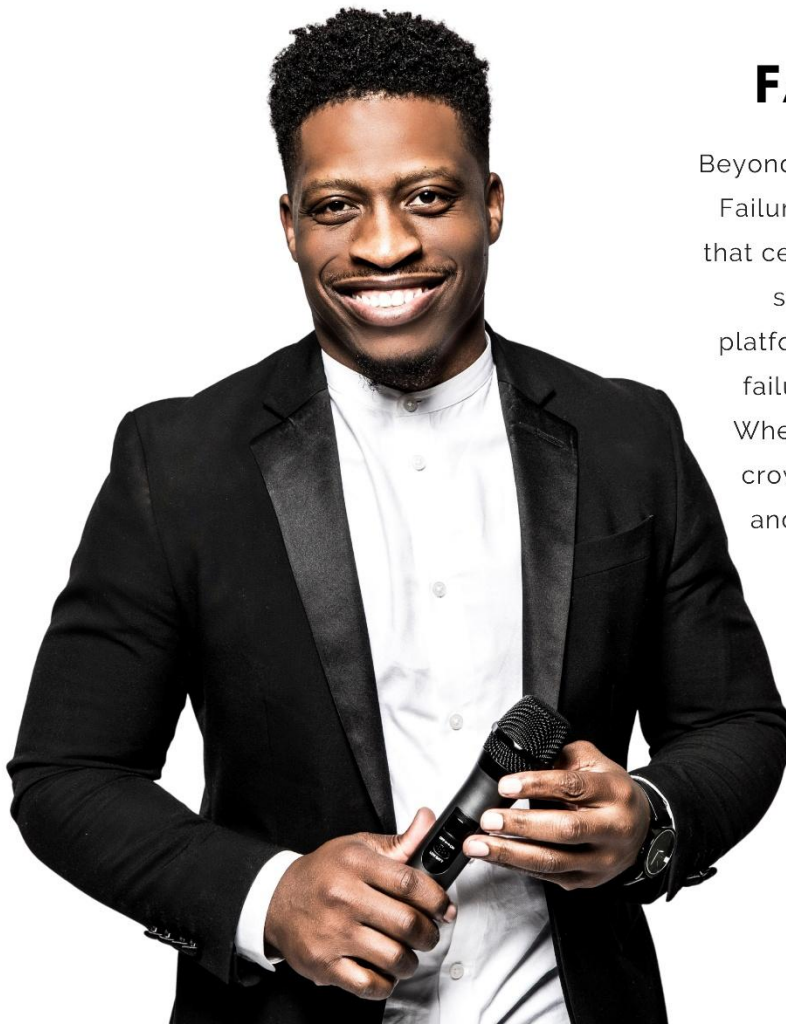
Dennis Fortune – Pianist

Mike Jamison - Guitarist



ABOUT BLAKE

Blake Saunders is a dynamic event emcee and host known for his charismatic presence and engaging style. With over a decade of experience in the industry, Blake has successfully hosted a wide range of events, from corporate conferences to high-profile galas. His ability to connect with audiences and keep events running smoothly has made him a sought-after talent. Blake's passion for creating memorable experiences shines through in every event he hosts. As a proud alumnus of Delaware State University, he credits his time there for shaping his confidence, voice, and commitment to excellence both on and off the stage.



FAILURE IS DOPE

Beyond the mic, Blake is also the founder of Failure is Dope, an inspirational movement that celebrates the lessons learned through setbacks and challenges. Through this platform, he empowers others to turn their failures into fuel for growth and success. Whether hosting an event or motivating a crowd, Blake brings energy, authenticity, and purpose to every stage he steps on.



A photograph of several children sitting on a wooden stage. The children are wearing various costumes, including striped socks, a red and white striped shirt, and a large white furry hood. They are sitting on a wooden floor, and their hands are clasped in front of them.

Celebrating CIS Delaware

Barnes & Thornburg is proud to support **Communities In Schools of Delaware's** mission of changing lives one student at a time. Tonight, that mission takes center stage with an unforgettable evening of artistic magic.

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Michelle Dawson, Ph.D., Board Secretary

Isaac Muns, Board Treasurer

Tyrone Jones, Board Member

Marshala Lee-McCall, MD, Board Member

Jeffrey Menzer, Ed.D., Board Member

Michele Spink, Board Member



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BEING PRESENT MATTERS

Magical CISDE Staff

Leadership Team:

- Carlton Lampkins, Ed.D., President/CEO
- Anthony McCollum, Director of Finance and Human Resources
- Brittany Tallman, Operations Manager
- Lamar Person, Program Manager
- Karen Harmon, Administrative Assistant and Basic Needs Coordinator

Brandywine School District:

- Corey Wallace, Community Graduation Coach for High Schools
- Marquest Clark, Site Coordinator, P. S. DuPont Middle School

Christina School District:

- Lynaida Smalls, Community Graduation Coach for High Schools
- Compton King, Site Coordinator, Glasgow High School
- Nakia Spencer, Site Coordinator, Gauger-Cobbs Middle School

Colonial School District:

- Shakeya Clark, Community Graduation Coach for High Schools
- Carolyn Williams, District Homeless Specialist
- Dwayne Miller, Site Coordinator, William Penn High School
- Korey Bishop, Site Coordinator, William Penn High School Annex
- Jakeera Davis, Graduation Coach, William Penn High School
- Micah Jones-Parson, Program Specialist, William Penn High School
- Gloria Sefa, Site Coordinator, George Read Middle School

- Jasmyn Allen, Site Coordinator, Gunning Bedford Middle School
- James Thomas, Site Coordinator, McCullough Middle School
- Jaquii Cunningham, Site Coordinator, Carrie Downie Elementary School
- Melissa Jones, Site Coordinator, Colonial Early Education Program
- Calvin Bland, Site Coordinator, Castle Hills Elementary School
- Qua'Nesha Wilson, Site Coordinator, Eisenberg Elementary School
- Muna Mansaray, Site Coordinator, New Castle Elementary School
- Rolanda Goodman, Site Coordinator, Pleasantville Elementary School
- Michelle Roberts, Site Coordinator, Southern Elementary School
- Kenneth Tallman, Site Coordinator, Wilbur Elementary School
- Bryana Evans, Site Coordinator, Wilmington Manor Elementary School

Early College School at Delaware State University:

- Erika Fulton-Moncrief, Site Coordinator

Red Clay Consolidated School District:

- Bryan Barnhill, Community Graduation Coach for High Schools
- Imani Forbes, Site Coordinator, McKean High School
- Bernicea Jackson, Site Coordinator, Richardson Park Elementary School
- Mote Elementary School, Site Coordinator TBD

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