

Brandon House's Go Live

Brandon House created the Go Live: Creative Soul Sessions Series as a platform for independent artists and musicians who are ready to showcase

their original music. Go Live was launched as a resource for those ARmusicians and ARTists who reside in Arkansas and have been affected by COVID-19. As a result of participating in Go Live, ARmusicians and ARTists will walk away with an Electronic Press Kit, a promotional video, a copy of their live performance and interview, an audio recording of their performance, and a promotional flyer for their episode. The objective is to provide the ARTist community with tools to market and promote original music across the nation. Dr. Patrice Bax serves as the Executive Producer, and with the help of D'Shawn Lampkin (Creative Musical Director), Stephan "SJ" James (Creative Video Director), and W. Ricardo Richardson II (Host), the first episode will premier on Saturday, Aug. 1st. If there is any interest in performing for Go Live or to learn more, please visit Brandon House's website at <https://brandonhouseperformingartscenter.org/what-we-do/go-live.html>



Welcome New Staff!



Welcome D'Shawn Lamkin

Brandon House welcomes D'Shawn Lamkin to the family. D'Shawn is currently serving as an AmeriCorps VISTA Summer Associate and is assigned to Brandon House where he is responsible for the audio production of the Go Live: Creative Soul Sessions Series. As a bassists, music education has elevated D'Shawn's passion for performing! His skills as a bass musician have garnered an Artist Endorsement with Allen Eden Guitars. Although, the bass is his choice of instruments, D'Shawn was awarded All-State, All Region Jazz and Concert Band distinctions for drums while attending Little Rock Central High School. He was also a marching band participant in the Inaugural Parade for President Barack Obama with Little Rock Central High Band. D'Shawn has played for Kierra Sheard, Lisa Knowles, Dorinda Clark, James Fortune, Jekayln Carr, Alexis Speights, Maranda Curtis, Dorinda Clark, Trisha Green, Bobby Jones, Dedric Jones, Harold Wade; and has shared the stage with Gerald Albright, Kirk Whalum, Tye Tribett and more. He has also played on many records including a live CD/DVD Gospel recording. D'Shawn is currently touring with Dazz and Brie, Electric 5, and the Kosher Band. He is currently a senior at the University of AR at Little Rock, studying Music Education, and a Percussion Instructor for Pulaski Academy. D'Shawn brings the flavor that keeps the sound fresh and innovative for Brandon House and the Artist community in Arkansas.

Welcome Stephan James

Brandon House welcomes Stephan James, also known as SJ, to the family! SJ has been a Hip-Hop artist and influencer in Central Arkansas since 2005. SJ is



currently serving as an AmeriCorps VISTA Summer Associate assigned to Brandon House where he serves as a videographer for the Go Live: Creative Soul sessions series. Fresh out of high-school and into college he was producing a TV/Radio show as well as almost a dozen recording projects featuring himself and fellow artists in the area. In 2010 he created Independent Music Night. "IMN is a month show for local artist and is approaching its 10 year anniversary (Fall 2020). With the help of his label mates from Grim Muzik he has recently been featured in several major films such as Tyler Perry's BOO! A Madea Halloween & Single Moms Club as well as a local film "Then There Was Joe" produced by Justin Warren. Most recently, he has been hired as director or production for a local TV program which is soon to go national entitled "It's Possible Little". One of his favorite things to do is working with Brandon House's iHUSTLE program where he helps with video production and song writing for Little Rock high school students. He is a proud father and song writer with high hopes to produce his first solo album while laying a foundation in entertainment for future generations.



Welcome Kristen Smith

Brandon House is proud to have Kristen Smith back with us. In 2018, Kris worked at Brandon House facilitating the SOAR (Students Observing Arts & Recreation) Summer Program. She rejoined the Brandon House family as the Prevention

Coordinator for the Arts Over Tobacco Program funded by the University of Arkansas-Pine Bluff - Minority Initiative Sub-recipient Grant Office. As Prevention Coordinator, she will provide tobacco prevention education to underrepresented youth and families across seven Arkansas counties. Her focus with Arts Over Tobacco is to uplift the arts as an alternative to using tobacco products within African American and Hispanic communities in Arkansas.

Kristen has a Journalism and African/African-American Studies Bachelor of Arts degree from the University of Arkansas. For the past two decades, the arts has very much been a part of the fabric of who she is. She started playing the piano when she was four years old, has seven years of flute experience, ten years of experience as an original writer/poet, and has been singing since she could talk. Kristen has toured all over the world and has been on international stages in Spain, Jamaica, Belgium, Germany and Puerto Rico. She has also performed on numerous stages across the country. Kristen has fifteen years of musical theatre experience and has been in productions at a LORT D theatre in the Central Arkansas area, and was a finalist for the part of Dorothy in The Wiz Live! on ABC in 2015. Kristen can read music and sing by ear as well as match pitch and improv. She was a member of the world-renowned Inspirational Choral and the Schola Cantorum on the U of A's campus. Kristen has shared the stage with Stellar performing artist C. Ashley Brown-Lawrence, Stellar award nominee Kathy Taylor, multi-GRAMMY, Stellar, and Dove Award winner Richard Smallwood. Kristen believes that along with her gifts and talents comes a responsibility to continue to observe, learn, grow and make strides to positively contribute to the global community on a daily basis. Welcome back Kristen to the Brandon House Family.

Congratulations to Our Board Member!



Brandon House would like to take time to congratulate Kevin Young, who serves as the treasurer on Brandon House's Board of Directors. Kevin was recently promoted as Assistant Principal at Friendship Aspire Academy. Raised in North Little Rock, Arkansas, Kevin brings his passion for inspiring others to audiences across the nation. After excelling several years in corporate America and among the challenging ranks of the federal government, Kevin decided to use his skills and life experiences to inspire others to take action and discover their greatness within. Following his graduation from the University of Central Arkansas, Kevin saw several needs in his local community that sparked his desire to help others. This move inevitably lead him to establish "Lets Talk", a mentorship program that motivates teenagers to excel in and outside the classroom. His many years of successfully delivering keynotes and inspirational messages to the youth moved Kevin to do the same for adults. In 2013, Mr. Young established the CommonCents Teacher, a community outreach program that imparts the importance of personal and economic empowerment throughout the community. The interactive program is designed to teach teenagers and adults the about fundamentals of money and financial responsibility. When not delivering upbeat inspirational programs, Kevin enjoys spending time with his seven year old son, Karson.

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