



San Francisco Chapter

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May 1, 2008

Greetings,

The San Francisco Chapter of The Recording Academy® and the GRAMMY® Jazz Choir are proud to offer **Bay Area high-school vocal students** an opportunity to participate in a **Vocal Master Class and GRAMMY Jazz Choir Workshop** with **GRAMMY-nominated jazz singer Kurt Elling** at Yoshi's in Oakland (at Jack London Square) on June 14, 2008 at 1 p.m. This is a great opportunity for students to learn jazz vocal techniques and tips on how to audition at their best. Kurt will lead the students through a series of exercises in the Master Class, and at the conclusion, students will have the option of filming an audition tape for the GRAMMY Jazz Choir.

I have attached additional information about the Gibson/Baldwin GRAMMY Jazz Ensembles. Also, enclosed is an **entry form** for the GRAMMY Jazz Ensembles for students to fill out if they choose to attend the Master Class and are interested in auditioning for the 2009 GRAMMY Jazz Choir. Please make additional copies for as many students as might be interested. The GRAMMY Foundation has waived the submission fee if students attend the Master Class. I personally feel this Master Class will challenge the students in new directions in their music, and encourage students to audition for the GRAMMY Jazz Choir – it is a once in a lifetime experience.

Please reach out to your students that are strong vocalists and might benefit from this opportunity. Have them fill out and fax or mail the forms back to us here at the Chapter by June 10 (contact information above).

If you have any questions or need any additional information, please call us here at the Chapter at 415.749.0779 or e-mail sanfrancisco@grammy.com.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Merl Saunders, Jr.', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Merl Saunders, Jr.
Senior Executive Director

GRAMMY Jazz Ensembles

The GRAMMY Jazz Ensembles program identifies, selects and rewards the accomplishments of talented high school instrumentalists and singers. Students from across North America and Canada have the opportunity to audition for the Choir, Band or Combo. Sponsored by Gibson Guitars/Baldwin Pianos, the students selected to the ensembles are provided an all-expenses-paid trip to the host city of the GRAMMY Awards. Under the direction of Justin DiCioccio (Manhattan School of Music) and Dr. Ron McCurdy (USC Thornton School of Music), students perform at official GRAMMY-related events, often with celebrity guest artists. As part of this program, many students may be awarded college scholarships from Berklee College of Music, Manhattan School of Music, New School University Jazz Program and the University of Southern California's (USC) Thornton School of Music.

During the GRAMMY Jazz Ensembles experience, students gain first-hand knowledge of what it's like to be a professional working musician through the following components:

- Free trip to the 51st GRAMMY Awards telecast
- Perform during several GRAMMY related events
- Pool of \$2,000,000 in scholarships/financial aid
- Record CD at Capitol Recording Studios
- Recognition for both the student and school/music program

For more information please visit grammyintheschools.com.