

April 28, 2009

Contact: Christy Read (Franklin) 504.286.2615  
Ayana Mac Donald (Berklee) 617.747.6059

## **Franklin Senior to perform with the Berklee City Music All-Star Ensemble at Quincy Jones Music Consortium in NYC April 29**

Benjamin Franklin Senior High School Senior, NOCCA student and trumpet player, Linton Smith, has been selected to perform with the Berklee City Music All-Star Ensemble at the Quincy Jones Music Consortium conference in New York City on April 29. The performance will be for Mr. Quincy Jones himself, as well as 60 musicians and educators who are gathering in the Big Apple to discuss how to create equal access to high quality music education for our youth, regardless of economic status or location.

Linton was chosen for his involvement with the Tipitina's Foundation, a member of the Berklee City Network-Berklee College of Music, and for his outstanding musicianship and reputation as a young person who demonstrates musical scholarship and character. The Berklee City Music All-Star Ensemble is composed of the best and brightest students, most of who attended the Berklee Five Week Summer Performance Program on scholarship and/or currently participate in programs at Network member schools. The ensemble performs multiple genres of contemporary musical styles including Jazz, Hip-hop, and Rhythm and Blues.

Linton will fly to Boston on Tuesday, April 28<sup>th</sup> for a one-time rehearsal, than travel to New York on a chartered bus with the band the next day. He will fly back to New Orleans on the 30<sup>th</sup>. All expenses for his trip will be paid for by Berklee College of Music.

For more information, or to schedule an interview with Linton Smith, contact Christy Read at 504.286.2615 or 504.616.4386..

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Founded in 1957, Benjamin Franklin High School has carefully followed its stated mission, which says, in part, "to promote excellence among New Orleans high school students." The school has been consistently ranked as a "top public high school in the nation" by U.S. News and World Report (2009); Newsweek (2008, 2007); Business Week (2009), and has received the highest School Performance Score in Louisiana, making it the #1 academically ranked school in the state again this year.

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