

JAZZ HOUSE KIDS®

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Jazz House Kids and the Gia Maione Prima Foundation Announces the Establishment of the Louis Prima and Gia Maione Prima Jazz Scholars Fund

*Louis Prima, Jr. is special guest at the 2016 Jazz House Summer Workshop on August 11;
Performs with the Jazz House Big Bands at the Montclair Jazz Festival August 13*

(August 11, 2016, Montclair, NJ) The nationally acclaimed nonprofit jazz education organization [Jazz House Kids](http://www.jazzhousekids.org) is pleased to announce the establishment of the **Louis Prima and Gia Maione Prima Jazz Scholars Fund**. The special scholarship honors the life and legacy of Louis Prima and Gia Maione Prima and their commitment to music education.



Gia Maione Prima, born and raised in South Jersey, was an acclaimed singer and performer who began her career in 1962, when she joined the wildly popular band led by trumpet player, singer, and songwriter **Louis Prima**. The couple married a year later, and Gia and Louis recorded and performed together often, notably collaborating on jazz versions of songs from the *Mary Poppins* film. Louis Prima is well known for composing such beloved tunes as “Sing, Sing, Sing,” “Jump, Jive, n’ Wail,” and “That Old Black Magic,” among many others, and branched out from his music career to sing and take roles in Disney’s *The Jungle Book* and *Winnie the Pooh*.

The new scholarship, awarded by [Gia Maione Prima Foundation](http://www.giamaioneprima.org), is part of the far-reaching **Jazz House Kids Music and Education Fund**, which provides vital resources to support in-school music education programs in underserved communities across New Jersey as well as meet the needs of families at the Jazz House, regardless of their financial means. More than 40% of students studying at the Jazz House receive assistance.



Jazz House Kids offers more than 20 instrumental and vocal jazz classes at the Jazz House for students new to jazz through to pre-college programming, and provides access to music education in underserved school districts, with programs in 10 schools in Newark, Orange, Union and Elizabeth. Jazz House Kids also places instruments in the hands of young people who want to play but can't afford instruments. Each year, Jazz House Kids brings jazz into the community through more than 75 student performances and reaches more than 25,000 people through its events, performances and programming. **Wynton Marsalis** has said about Jazz House Kids: "this organization is deserving and worthy of support from all who wish to see an actual movement in the direction of excellence for our young people. Count me in that number."

According to **Melissa Walker**, president & founder of Jazz House Kids, the establishment of the Prima scholarship will help the organization meet a growing demand for vital funds to bridge the gap for underserved schools and families in need. "We are so grateful for this generous scholarship and partnership," said Walker. "The Louis Prima and Gia Maione Prima Jazz Scholars Fund has already helped with tuition support, room and board, private lessons and special programming to several students attending this year's Jazz House Summer Workshop. Our emerging musicians look to Jazz House Kids to help them level the playing field and give them access to a world-class instruction, mentoring and performance opportunities."

The **Jazz House Summer Workshop**, produced by Jazz House Kids each August, works to sustain and enhance the skills students learn throughout the school year and to prepare them for effective advancement in musical studies throughout the fall academic season. Under the leadership of Artistic Director **Christian McBride** and workshop director **Ted Chubb**, the Jazz House Summer Workshop hosts more than 150 students from London to Lima for two weeks of intensive instruction, symposiums with guest artists, ensemble performances and daily jam sessions. Students of all levels receive mentoring and top-notch instruction from professional musicians, and have the priceless experience of performing at the world-renowned **Dizzy Club Coca-Cola at Jazz at Lincoln Center**.

The Summer Workshop concludes with a performance at [Montclair Jazz Festival](#) before an audience of 8,000 jazz fans. Produced by Jazz House Kids under the leadership of Melissa Walker and presented by the **Bravitas Group & Silver Family Foundation, the NEA, North Coast Brewing Co.** and many other generous sponsors, the rain or shine Montclair Jazz Fest features world-class musicians, and performances by Jazz House Kids teaching artists and students in award-winning ensembles and vocal groups. The all-day event also includes a beer tent; an expanded family jazz discovery zone, shuttle service, bike valet and concessions. Now in its 7th year, the Montclair Jazz Festival this is one of the only in the nation with a mission to provide arts education to the community and promote the importance and vitality of jazz music. The festival is livestreamed from 12 noon to 9:00 pm EST on www.montclairjazzfestival.org.

Louis Prima, Jr. Carries on Legacy



The Montclair Jazz Festival is proud to welcome Louis Prima, Jr. to the Bravitas stage. The iconic singer, song writer entertainer, honors the legacy of his father through his own commitment to music education. The son will be featured at the Montclair Jazz Festival performing with the award winning **Jazz House Big Band** and the **Jazz House Dynasty Band**. On [Thursday, August 11th](#), Prima will be at the **Jazz House Summer Workshop**, working with the big bands in preparation for the big stage at the Montclair Jazz Festival on August 13. Prima takes a page from his father’s playbook bringing new energy and a 21st century attitude to the famed Prima Swing! We are honored to have the Prima legacy at the Jazz House.

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About Jazz House Kids

Jazz House Kids helps students gain an “artistic edge” through music, mentoring, education and apprenticeship. By offering pre-professional, year-round musical training along with community engagement and education programs for young people from all backgrounds, we use jazz as an effective teaching tool to enhance academic achievement, dedication and teamwork, and cultivate tomorrow’s global citizens. JazzTimes calls Jazz House Kids, “one of the most successful and respected jazz education programs in the country.” Since 2002, more than 45,000 students have participated in Jazz House Kids music education programs in the schools, at the Jazz House and have performed for more than half a million people in the community. Through Jazz House Music + Education Fund, the organization seeks to raise vital funds needed to ensure access to world-class education and community programming.

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