

Big Band concert – Friday, June 3



More about the program

Imagine a breathtaking live act combines the sounds of Stevie Wonder, Duke Ellington and Tito Puente. Named one of the best Big Bands in the world by DownBeat Magazine Salsa Trips, the Pacific Mambo Orchestra (PMO) is the 2014 Grammy Award winner for Best Latin Tropical Album. Respected with an intoxicating musical energy that inevitably evokes standing ovations, PMO honors the sounds of the great Latin Big Bands of the 1940's through present times.

Berkeley High Jazz is internationally known as an incubator for local jazz talent. The Berkeley community holds this jazz program in high esteem with good reason. Alumni like Benny Green, Peter Apfelbaum, Joshua Redman, Dayna Stephens, Ambrose Akinmusire, and Elena Pinderhughes have become professional musicians currently contributing to the art of jazz.

Both Berkeley High Jazz and Berkeley Music Group are 501(c)(3) nonprofit organizations. Your support ensures that every music student has access to world-class programs.

Concert: War Requiem – June 3-5

Girls Chorus. In addition, the performance will be preceded one hour earlier with pre-concert discussion led by John Cottrell on June 3, Marika Kuzon on June 4, and Jon Bailey on June 5.

Years ago

1966 was an auspicious time; during that year, the National Organization for Women (NOW) was formed; Bobby Seale and Abbie Hoffman founded the Black Panther Party; and closer to home, Eugene Jones founded the Berkeley Community Chorus and Orchestra.

Eugene Jones was a talented and charismatic personality, who crossed the color barrier as an Oakland

firefighter in the late 1940s and as a Bay Area opera singer in the '50s, singing with the San Francisco Spring Opera, the Oakland Light Opera and the San Francisco Municipal Opera Chorus.

In addition to his firefighting and singing careers, Jones taught music and black history to local high school students. He started a chorus of novices that eventually grew into the 150-member, multi-racial BCCO.

"He had an incredible desire to help people understand that being African American in his era was something to be admired," commented John Patton Jr. of Richmond about Jones. "In the music world, he could be who he wanted to be."

3rd annual B.O.S.S. Rising Stars Youth Leadership Gala – June 2

Building Opportunities for Self-Sufficiency (B.O.S.S.) will be hosting its 3rd annual Rising Stars Youth Leadership Gala at the Hotel Shattuck Plaza on Thursday, June 2 from 6 – 8 p.m.; where it will be honoring 20 local youth who are not your typical overachievers.

Rather, these are normal kids who are facing significant life challenges and succeeding despite long odds. For example, Thomas Jones, who survived a gunshot wound five years ago, is now preparing to continue his education at SF State University. To read more about this honoree, see below.

Co-sponsored by Berkeley Youth Alternatives (BYA), Berkeley High School, and Berkeley Technology Academy, the Rising Stars Youth Leadership Gala is always one of the most inspiring events of the season – and fun too!

This year's Gala will feature live music, a delicious dinner, and an awards presentation that will include the announcement of four scholarships. Tickets are \$30, or two for \$50, and the entire community is welcome to attend.

Hotel Shattuck Plaza is located at 2086 Allston Way in Downtown Berkeley. For more info or to discuss sponsorship opportunities, contact B.O.S.S. offices by calling (510) 649-1930 or by going to self-sufficiency.org/events

More about Thomas Jones

Thomas Jones doesn't regret going to a house party in Sacramento five years ago...where a shooting resulted in a major injury to his leg. Now 25, Jones, a participant at Berkeley Youth Alternatives, sees the life lessons during that summer spent without the use of his leg.

"I wouldn't have grown from it," Jones commented, reflecting on how much he has matured since then.

On June 2, Thomas Jones will receive a Rising Stars Youth Leadership Award, along with 19 other



Photo courtesy of B.O.S.S.

Thomas Jones of Berkeley will be honored among other B.O.S.S. Rising Stars at a special ceremony at the Shattuck Plaza Hotel on Thursday, June 2.

youth. More specifically, he has been nominated for a "Role Model" award by BYA, one of four nominating organizations.

"I nominated Thomas Jones, because he's a leader amongst his peers. He was able to overcome a traumatic situation and push forward to be an example to his son and peers," said Mieka Claridy, Program Manager at BYA.

Jones, a lifetime Berkeley resident, remained bedridden during the summer of 2011. His leg injury required surgery, and he was first put on academic probation, then academic dismissal, from Berkeley City College after his GPA fell to a 0.5.

In spring 2012, Jones found out that he was to become a father, and that news propelled him to work hard at his college readmission, concentration on his studies, employment (at one time, he had three jobs), and future plans. His son was born in fall 2012, and in one semester, his GPA rose from 0.5 to 3.0.

"And it's still rising," he said with a smile.

Family is important to Thomas Jones. He was raised by his mother and grandfather, both Berkeley residents. His uncle owns KC's Bar-B-Que on San Pablo Avenue. Jones

1966 was an auspicious time; during that year, the National Organization for Women (NOW) formed; Bobby Seale and Huey P. Newton founded the Black Panther Party; and closer to home, Eugene Jones founded the Berkeley Community Chorus and Orchestra. Jones was a talented and charismatic personality, who crossed the color barrier as an Oakland

high school student. He started a chorus of novices that eventually grew into the 150-member, multi-racial BCCO.

"He had an incredible desire to help people understand that being African American in his era was something to be admired," commented John Patton Jr. of Richmond about Jones. "In the music world, he could be who he wanted to be."

five years ago...where a shooting resulted in a major injury to his leg. Now 25, Jones, a participant at Berkeley Youth Alternatives, sees the life lessons during that summer spent without the use of his leg.

"I wouldn't have grown from it," Jones commented, reflecting on how much he has matured since then.

On June 2, Thomas Jones will receive a Rising Stars Youth Leadership Award, along with 19 other

work hard at his college readmission, concentration on his studies, employment (at one time, he had three jobs), and future plans. His son was born in fall 2012, and in one semester, his GPA rose from 0.5 to 3.0.

"And it's still rising," he said with a smile.

Family is important to Thomas Jones. He was raised by his mother and grandfather, both Berkeley residents. His uncle owns KC's Bar-B-Que on San Pablo Avenue. Jones spends weekends with his son, who is now three-years old, and enjoys taking him to museums and listening to music. In middle school, Jones learned how to play violin, and he has high hopes his son will also excel in a musical instrument.

His plans in the fall are to transfer from BCC to San Francisco State University and major in sociology and psychology. His ultimate goal is law school, possibly Hastings, and to become a juvenile defendant.

ENSEMBLE benefit concert Dance Party

featuring the Grammy Award winning
PACIFIC MAMBO ORCHESTRA



photos by Aichi Niyitroun

JUNE 3
AT 7 P.M.

2036 UNIVERSITY AVE. * theuc theatre.org

for VIP, proceeds benefiting the AIDS Memorial

