



Duke Ellington

school of the arts

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For Immediate Release

November 18, 2008

**KERRY GORDY & ENTERTAINMENT MASTERS
PRESENT AT ELLINGTON**

WHO:

- Kerry Gordy, career entertainment executive, CEO of Kerry Gordy Enterprises, LLC and Nu Vintage, LLC, and son of Motown founder Berry Gordy, Jr.
- Leigh Jones, rising R&B star, hit single *Free Fall*
- Hawthorne James, actor (*The Color Purple*, *The Five Heartbeats*, *Speed*)

WHAT: A performance by R&B singer Leigh Jones will be followed by master classes led by entertainment powerhouse Kerry Gordy, Ms. Jones, and Mr. James. "Kerry Gordy couldn't be a bigger Motown insider," says Rory Pullens, Ellington's head of school. "Household names like Michael Jackson, Stevie Wonder, Smokey Robinson, Lionel Richie, Rick James, The Temptations, Diana Ross, and Marvin Gaye were like family to him, and, like his father, Motown founder Berry Gordy, Jr., Mr. Kerry knows the entertainment industry inside and out. It's tremendously exciting that he would choose to visit Ellington and impart his wisdom, influence, and vast experience on our students."

WHEN: Tomorrow, November 19, 2008
9:00 a.m.

WHERE: Ellington Theatre
Duke Ellington School of the Arts
3500 R Street, NW
Washington, DC 20007

WHY: To expose Ellington students to established figures in music, film, and television and give them a sense of what it takes to succeed in the entertainment industry.

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Duke Ellington School of the Arts is an accredited college preparatory public school of the District of Columbia offering pre-professional training in museum studies, literary media, visual arts, dance, theater, technical design and production, instrumental and vocal music. Ellington offers students an educational experience that combines both academic studies and artistic development. Our vision is to meet the needs of talented students who are considering careers in the arts by providing intensive arts instruction of the highest quality and strong academic curriculum and to prepare students for post-secondary education and/or pre-professional careers. Ellington's unique partnership with the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts and The George Washington University provides significant opportunities to the students, faculty and staff.

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