



PRESS RELEASE
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LIVE EBAY AUCTION TO BENEFIT DUKE ELLINGTON SCHOOL OF THE ARTS
www.dukeellingtonauction.com

Washington, DC – From Wednesday, December 6th until Saturday, December 16, people will be able to bid on priceless experiences in a live eBay auction benefiting the Duke Ellington School of the Arts, a nationally acclaimed public arts high school located in the nation's capital. Approximately five entertainment-related packages will be auctioned live beginning Wednesday, December 6th and conclude ten days later on Saturday, December 16th.

“This auction gives us the opportunity to raise awareness about how the lives of children, some from the most disadvantaged backgrounds, can be transformed by the discipline and energy required by artistic training, and by the expectations of high academic achievement,” says Ellen Copley, Executive Director of the Ellington Fund.

Some of the auction prizes include:

- **Meet star comedian Dave Chappelle! Attend any Chappelle performance in the continental United States. Receive two tickets to one of Dave's shows, plus deluxe backstage passes to meet the most popular comedian in the country.**

As one of Duke Ellington's most famous graduates (Class of 1991), Chappelle credits the school, where he majored in theater, for much of his success.

"The experience of attending Duke Ellington had a profoundly positive effect on my life and my work," says Chappelle. "I hope to help ensure that they continue to have the resources needed to enrich the lives of young people in Washington."

- **Meet world renowned opera star Denyce Graves! Enjoy the singer's phenomenal talent with four tickets to one of her 2006-2007 season performances anywhere in the world! Following the concert, you and your guests are invited backstage to meet the diva herself!**

“We're tremendously grateful for the generosity of the many individuals who donated the fantastic prizes for this effort,” says Copley. “and auction winners should know that they're making an impact in the lives of our students.” To participate, bidders may visit www.dukeellingtonauction.com.

About Duke Ellington School of the Arts

The Duke Ellington School of the Arts's mission is to nurture and inspire passion for arts and learning in talented students who might not otherwise have an opportunity to

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develop their artistic skills. Ellington ensures that its students are prepared for post-secondary education and/or careers in the arts by offering an intensive arts-based program. The school prepares its students to become productive citizens in a global society through our strong focus on community service.

Founded in 1974, Duke Ellington School of the Arts is the only college preparatory public arts high school serving the nation's capital. It is also the only public school independently managed through a unique public-private partnership with The George Washington University, the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts, D.C. Public Schools, and the Ellington Fund. Ellington offers pre-professional training in dance, theater, instrumental and vocal music, museum studies, literary and visual media, as well as a full academic curriculum.

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