



PRESS RELEASE
For Immediate Release

Contact: Adrienne Lee
info@abop.us
833-256-ABOP (2267)

**NON-PROFIT MENTORS AND SUPPORTS
YOUNG AND EMERGING BLACK SYMPHONIC PERCUSSIONISTS**

Former Principal Percussionist Cites a Lack of Diversity on Stage as the Catalyst for Change

Los Angeles, CA, November 7, 2022 -- Raynor Carroll, retired Principal Percussionist of the Los Angeles Philharmonic, together with six nationally-recognized Black symphonic percussionists and educators, in April 2021, established the **Alliance of Black Orchestral Percussionists (ABOP)**, a non-profit organization committed to change and dedicated to an inclusive symphonic orchestra.

Recognizing the lack of diversity in the field of classical music performance, and identifying a need to increase the pool of qualified Black percussionists in our country's symphonic orchestras, the ABOP Founders* recently implemented the **National Black Orchestral Percussion Mentorship Program** to provide comprehensive training and support to Black percussionists seeking a career in symphonic orchestras. Applications are currently open.

“ABOP’s goal is to change the paradigm of representation in orchestras by empowering future generations of Black orchestral percussionists,” says ABOP Founder and CEO, Raynor Carroll. “This is truly the first and only mentorship of its kind that focuses solely on Black orchestral percussionists. I am excited about the opportunity to fill this long-standing void.”

The Mentorship Program is open to Black percussionists of any age seeking training and support in pursuing symphonic careers. Program benefits are provided at no cost to students, including private lessons, master classes, assistance with finances, equipment, and school audition/job preparation. Up to 12 participants will be accepted in the Program’s inaugural year (2022-23). Applicants are accepted throughout the year on a rolling basis.

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Aspen Music Festival and School CEO/President Alan Fletcher, who is also an ABOP Board Member, said “It is a pleasure to be a colleague with the leadership of ABOP. These extraordinary musicians, who have truly walked the walk of achievement in the orchestral world, are sharing their knowledge, passion, artistry, and access with the next generations of young musicians, seeking a new future for music in which equity and inclusion are the norm instead of the exception.”

ABOP has drawn major corporate support from leading instrument manufacturers, including Remo, Sabian, Zildjian, Marimba One, and Black Swamp. Community and educational partners include the Smithsonian Folklife Festival, Inner City Youth Orchestra of Los Angeles (ICYOLA), Aspen Music Festival and School, Cleveland Institute of Music, and Eastman School of Music.

ABOP will be attending the upcoming Percussive Arts Society International Convention (PASIC), November 10-12, in Indianapolis (Booth #907).

Program applications and information about ABOP and its Mentorship Program are currently available at www.abop.us; questions may be sent to info@abop.us.

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*ABOP Founders:

Raynor Carroll, Principal Percussion, Los Angeles Philharmonic (retired)
Timothy K. Adams, Jr., Former Principal Timpani, Pittsburgh Symphony
Douglas Cardwell, Former Principal Timpani, New Mexico Philharmonic
Michael Crusoe, Former Principal Timpani, Seattle Symphony
Jauvon Gilliam, Principal Timpani, National Symphony Orchestra
Joshua Jones, Principal Percussion, Kansas City Symphony
Johnny Lee Lane, Director of Percussion Studies, Eastern Illinois University (retired)

ABOP Contact:

PO Box 93034, Pasadena, CA 91109-9800
Phone: 833-256-ABOP (2267) Email: info@abop.us

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