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**Alliance of Black Orchestral Percussionists (ABOP)
Host their 2nd Annual *ABOP-in-LA*,
A Week-Long Intensive Study for Protégés**

For the First Time ABOP Opens Masterclasses, a Repertoire Reading Session, and the ABOP Recital to the Public Free for Attendees

***ABOP-in-LA* Dates May 26-May 31**

Los Angeles, CA (April 29, 2024)—The **Alliance of Black Orchestral Percussionists (ABOP)** is proud to announce its upcoming, week-long intensive program, ***ABOP-in-LA*** for ABOP Protégés. Scheduled for **May 26-May 31**, this immersive experience features a series of workshops, masterclasses, field trips, and a repertoire reading session, culminating in a final celebratory ABOP Recital.

ABOP aims to provide percussionists of African descent with an unparalleled opportunity for growth, networking, and artistic exploration.

Raynor Carroll, one of the seven founders of ABOP, shares the mission behind the development of the organization and their growing mentorship program. “After 33 years with the Los Angeles Philharmonic and noting the lack of diversity in symphonic orchestras across the country, as well as in conservatories, university music departments, and training orchestras, it was time to provide a structured path for young Black percussionists eager for a career in symphonic orchestras,” said Carroll. “ABOP’s mentorship program was created to support and guide young and emerging Black symphonic percussionists to realize their potential, while also boosting national

percussion audition rosters with exceptional Black candidates who are prepared, well-trained, and strong contenders for any orchestral position across America.”

ABOP-in-LA participants have the chance to learn from esteemed instructors, collaborate with fellow musicians, and engage in meaningful discussions about the future of percussion in orchestral settings.

Highlights of the program include:

- **Workshops:** Led by industry experts, workshops cover a wide range of topics including technique development, repertoire exploration, and career advancement strategies.
- **Masterclasses:** Renowned percussionists will offer personalized instruction and feedback to participants, helping them refine their skills and broaden their musical horizons.
- **Repertoire Reading Session:** ABOP Protégés will play and rehearse standard audition percussion repertoire with a live orchestra.
- **ABOP Recital:** The week culminates in a dynamic performance featuring ABOP Protégés showcasing their talents.

While *ABOP-in-LA* is primarily curated for ABOP’s Protégés, four masterclasses, the repertoire reading session and the ABOP Recital are open to aspiring percussionists of all levels, from students to percussion instructors.

“We look forward to *ABOP-in-LA* every year,” says Carroll. “It’s a week where our Protégés receive intensive hands-on training with master teachers and industry experts, meet like-minded peers, share experiences, and become energized for the challenges ahead. We also look forward to welcoming the public and future ABOP Protégés to the open events we are hosting throughout this year’s *ABOP-in-LA*. This week is an opportunity for the ABOP family of Protégés, Mentors, Board Members, Advisors, and supporters to come together to celebrate and renew the commitment we’re making to change the face of concert stages nationwide.”

For more information, visit <https://abop.us/abop-in-la/>.

Editor's Note:

Masterclass— *Techniques on Accessory Percussion*

Focus: Technique on cymbals, bass drum, tambourine, and triangle.

Presented by: **Joseph Mitchell III**, Adjunct Instructor, El Camino College and Los Angeles Harbor College; Southern California Freelance Percussionist

When: Sunday, May 26, 7:00 PM-8:30 PM

Where: Beckmen YOLA Center

101 South La Brea Avenue

Inglewood CA 90301

*Parking is available in the city lot directly behind the center.

Who is invited?: Percussionists and percussion instructors of all levels.

Register for free at the link [here](#).

Masterclass— *Survival Skills for the Working Percussionist*

Presented by: **Ricky Burkhead**, Professor of Music and Director of Percussion, University of Mississippi

When: Tuesday, May 28, 11:00 AM-12:30 PM

Where: Beckmen YOLA Center

101 South La Brea Avenue

Inglewood CA 90301

*Parking is available in the city lot directly behind the center.

Who is invited?: Percussionists and percussion instructors of all levels.

Register for free at the link [here](#).

Masterclass— *A History of the 40 Drum Rudiments*

Focus: The history of all 40 snare drum rudiments.

Presented by: Professor **Johnny Lee Lane**, Former Director of Percussion, Eastern Illinois University

When: Tuesday, May 28, 7:00 PM-8:30 PM

Where: Beckmen YOLA Center

101 South La Brea Avenue

Inglewood CA 90301

*Parking is available in the city lot directly behind the center.

Who is invited?: Percussionists and percussion instructors of all levels.

Register for free at the link [here](#).

Repertoire Reading Session

Focus: Selections from standard audition repertoire for percussion. Selections will include:

- Beethoven: Symphony No. 9, Movement I, coda
- Brahms: Symphony No. 1, Movement IV, coda
- Tchaikovsky: Symphony No. 4, Movements I & IV
- Tchaikovsky: *Romeo & Juliet*, Overture
- Rimsky-Korsakov: *Scheherazade*, Movements III & IV
- Dukas: *Sorcerer's Apprentice*
- Prokofiev: *Lieutenant Kije*, Movement I
- Gershwin: *Porgy & Bess*, opening

Conducted by: **Charles Dickerson**, Director, Inner-City Youth Orchestra (ICYOLA)

When: Wednesday, May 29, 7:45 PM-10:00 PM

Where: Beckmen YOLA Center

101 South La Brea Avenue

Inglewood CA 90301

Who is invited?: Percussionists and percussion instructors of all levels.

Register for free at the link [here](#).

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Note: This session features a full orchestra. The percussion section will be ABOP Protégés. The remainder of the orchestra will be members from ICYOLA, students, and professionals from LA county. All musicians are welcome! Musicians not associated with ICYOLA should email ABOP (info@abop.us) to reserve a seat in the orchestra. As a thank you from ABOP, all musicians are invited to arrive at 7:00 PM for a free dinner prior to the session.

Masterclass—Standard Audition Repertoire for Timpani

Focus: Beethoven, Brahms, Tchaikovsky, and others

Presented by: **Michael Crusoe**, Former Principal Timpani, Seattle Symphony

When: Thursday, May 30, 7:15 PM-8:45 PM

Where: Beckmen YOLA Center

101 South La Brea Avenue

Inglewood CA 90301

*Parking is available in the city lot directly behind the center.

Who is invited?: Percussionists and percussion instructors of all levels.

Register for free at the link [here](#).

ABOP Recital

Program: Solo and ensemble compositions will be performed showcasing ABOP Protégés. Compositions will include works by J.S. Bach, William Kraft, George Hamilton Green, Mantle Hood, and others. The final program is to be announced.

When: Friday, May 31, 7:00-8:00 pm

Where: Beckmen YOLA Center
101 South La Brea Avenue
Inglewood CA 90301

*Parking is available in the city lot directly behind the center.

Please note, that the above events are FREE and open to the public at no charge. Tickets can be reserved at the link [here](#).

Browse and register for all open events at ABOP's Eventbrite page [here](#).

Special thanks to ABOP's Sponsors Batterie Music, Black Swamp Percussion, Majestic Percussion, Marimba One, Remo, Vic Firth and Zildjian for their generous donation of materials, instruments, door prizes, and more.

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About ABOP

ABOP is a non-profit providing professional development to young and emerging Black percussionists seeking a career in symphonic percussion. Through comprehensive training and mentorship, ABOP prepares Black percussionists for the concert stage thereby changing the future face of symphonic orchestras nationwide.

Classical musicians of color rarely have colleagues who look like them. ABOP aims to promote social change by increasing the number of highly-trained Black percussionists. Regardless of age, gender, socio-economic status or geographic location, ABOP's goal is to lift Black percussionists through a program of instruction, workshops, and performance opportunities.

Learn more about ABOP's [core philosophies](#), [founding background](#), and [history](#), or dive deeper into our [Mentorship Program](#) by visiting these links.

About ABOP Protégés

ABOP Protégés are members of ABOP's Mentorship Program, open to Black percussionists of any age seeking training and support in pursuing a career in orchestral percussion. Students, pre-professionals, and professionals are prepared and guided to the next step in their musical careers by qualified and experienced percussionists in the field (ABOP Mentors). Program benefits are provided at no cost to Protégés.

Protégés are accepted each year on a rolling basis, pending program funding. Based on the Protégé's skills upon entry, Mentors work with Protégés over time to develop the skills and focus required of

professional players. ABOP will work with the Protégés' current musical activities to complement and enhance their development. Protégés will be encouraged not only to learn, but to teach and mentor. The aim is to cumulatively grow a professionally trained cohort of Black musicians who can support each other and nurture newcomers.

An important focus of the ABOP Mentorship is to develop the whole person—not just a skilled musician, but a compassionate, well-rounded, and responsible individual, prepared for today's tasks and tomorrow's challenges. ABOP counsels and encourages the Protégés in fulfilling educational goals, and nurtures and models behaviors that are key to being successful both in life and work. To learn more [click here](#).