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Press Contact: Adrienne Lee, info@abop.us

Alliance of Black Orchestral Percussionists (ABOP) Protégés Celebrate Milestone Achievement with Acceptance Invitations to Top Schools

Pasadena, California – March 30, 2025 – The **Alliance of Black Orchestral Percussionists (ABOP) Mentorship Program** is thrilled to announce a significant achievement for two of its Protégés, **Alexa Clawson** and **London Johnson**, who have received acceptance invitations from multiple schools for the fall of 2025.

Alexa Clawson, a senior at the Boston Conservatory at Berklee, has been accepted into master's programs at renowned institutions including UCLA, Southern Methodist University (SMU), and the Boston Conservatory. Her dedication and hard work throughout her time in the ABOP Mentorship Program, which she joined in July 2024, have undoubtedly paved the way for this accomplishment.

Similarly, **London Johnson**, a senior at Burbank High School, has also achieved an impressive feat by securing acceptance into undergraduate programs at both UCLA and California State University, Long Beach (CSULB). London has been a Protégé in the ABOP Mentorship Program since the fall of 2023, and his commitment to personal and academic growth has shone through in this achievement.

"We are incredibly proud of Alexa and London for their hard work and determination," said **Raynor Carroll**, Co-Founder & CEO of ABOP. "Their acceptance into these esteemed programs is a testament to their talent and the support they have received through our mentorship initiative. It's wonderful to see them have such exciting options for their futures."

The ABOP Mentorship Program continues to empower young talents by providing guidance, resources, and opportunities to help them reach their full potential.

For more information about the ABOP Mentorship Program and its initiatives, please visit www.abop.us or contact ABOP at info@abop.us.

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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](#).

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