

ABOP NEWS

Welcome to **ABOP News**—a newsletter of the Alliance of Black Orchestral Percussionists. **What's Up** and **What's New** with ABOP!

ABOP Welcomes Two New Protégés



ABOP recently welcomed **Donielle Woodard** and **Milik Green** to its Mentorship Program! **Donielle** is pursuing a dual degree at Southern Methodist University's Meadows School of the Arts, and **Milik** is currently pursuing his Doctor of Musical Arts degree in Music Performance from Shenandoah University.



ABOP Mentor appointed Assistant Principal Percussion, LA Phil

Congratulations to ABOP Mentor **Wesley Sumpter** on his new role as Assistant Principal Percussionist with the Los Angeles Philharmonic!



ABOP on NPR's Here and Now!



There is a fantastic 6-minute segment about ABOP on **NPR's program Here & Now**, presented by music journalist Betto Arcos. The segment is called: **"How the Alliance of Black Orchestral Percussionists is preparing the next generation of musicians."** Copy and paste this link to listen: <https://www.wbur.org/hereandnow/2025/09/29/black-orchestral-percussionists>

PASIC 2025 . . . and Raynor Carroll to Hall of Fame!

The **2025 Percussive Arts Society International Conference (PASIC)** was held in November 2025 in Indianapolis, IN, and attended by seven of our protégés. Annual participation in PASIC gives the protégés an excellent opportunity to thank ABOP supporters and donor manufacturers, attend masterclasses and workshops, and come together as a group to form lasting memories as friends and colleagues.

Congratulations to **ABOP Co-Founder and CEO, Raynor Carroll**, who was inducted into the **2025 Percussive Arts Society (PAS) Hall of Fame!** *"Witnessing Raynor be inducted into the Hall of Fame was incredibly inspiring, a reminder of the impact one person can have on a community. The experience challenged me as a musician and as a person, pushing me to grow, take risks, and embrace my artistry fully."* — ABOP protégé



Grant Awarded to ABOP

Raynor Carroll, Co-Founder and CEO of ABOP, is pleased to announce ABOP's receipt of a grant from **the Ella Fitzgerald Charitable Foundation**. Established in 1993 by the First Lady of Song, Ella Fitzgerald, the Foundation's mission is to *"foster a profound appreciation for music, provide music education to children and young adults, and expose individuals to the inherent beauty and joy of music."*



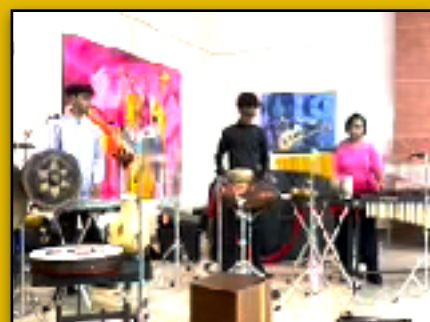
ABOP in the Community



In September 2025, three of ABOP's Los Angeles-based protégés performed at a branch meeting of the **Georgia Laster Association of Musicians (GLAM)** at Cal State Dominguez Hills. GLAM is the local branch of the **National Association of Negro Musicians (NANM)**, a nonprofit that *"promotes, preserves, and supports all genres of music created or performed by African Americans."*



In February 2026, **protégés Alexa Clawson and London Johnson** participated in the **2026 Musicians at Play's Rise Film Scoring Orchestra**. This prestigious program brings together talented young musicians from across Los Angeles to collaborate with professional studio musicians, contractors, and a world-class music industry team. Participants have the unique opportunity to experience recording a film score in a renowned Hollywood studio.



And, in March 2026, ABOP's Los Angeles-based protégés gave a performance at the **Los Angeles General Medical Center**. Patients, doctors, nurses, staff, and families enjoyed the soothing sounds of gongs, hand pans, and wind chimes, in addition to the melodic beauty of Bach on marimba.

Your support enables us to enhance our skills and share our passion with our communities —we truly appreciate it!