

January 2016

## BSA students & alumni find the spotlight

From Grammy nominations to roles in Broadway's biggest shows, from making videos to winning competitions (and even cooking), BSA students and graduates are exceling everywhere. Enjoy a few updates of recent accomplishments!

- Current theatre tech students **Jeffrey Obike** and **Ben Loviglio-Wolf**, working for [Wide Angle Youth Media](#), helped to produce several videos that were aired on Maryland Public Television in October as part of American Graduate Day. [Check out the project here.](#)
- Current dance student **Aeron Buchanan** was featured in [DC's Ngoma Reader](#). There's also a wonderful piece about Baltimore's dance community in the issue.

- **Jaylyn Simmons** traveled to Miami as a finalist in Classical Voice in the prestigious [YoungArts](#) competition where she worked and performed with hundreds of the nation's most talented young artists. **Brandon Woody** received a merit award in jazz, and **Joseph Parrish**, honorable mention. Opera singer & BSA alum **Jason Ferrante** was one of the panelists in Miami. "To know that someone is coming from exactly the same place you are is a great feeling," says Jaylyn about meeting Jason. "It really opened up conversation."



Jason & Jaylyn

- **Blake Hopkins**, current music student, appeared in a national holiday ad for Amtrak. [Find it here!](#) Blake also performed with the NeWorks Inspirational Voice Choir at a concert this December with [Andrea Bocelli](#).
- Musicians **Grace Carney**, **Luka Stefanovic**, and **Seth Schultheis** were named [Reinecke Youth Chamber Music Fellows](#). Grace Carney, along with **Matthew Olmstead** and **Brandon Woody**, were BSA Concerto Competition winners. [Hear them play this spring!](#)

- Graduate **Anthony Brown** has been nominated for a Grammy for Best Gospel Performance/Song for "[Worth](#)."
- Actor **Jonathan Burke** makes his Broadway debut in a new production of "Tuck Everlasting."
- Dancer **Kamille Upshaw** is in the hit "[Hamilton](#)." She performed with cast mates for Broadway Cares. [See the clip here.](#)
- Grad **Anthony Leonard** applies his artistic skills to cooking with great success. His [Southern Blues](#) was named the #2 Best Black-Owned restaurant in Baltimore by the Black Business Directory.
- Three BSA alums will be part of the ensemble in a revival of "[Cabin in the Sky](#)" at City Center in NYC this February! Congrats **Darius Barnes**, **Bahiyah Hibah**, and **Rebecca Hargrove**.

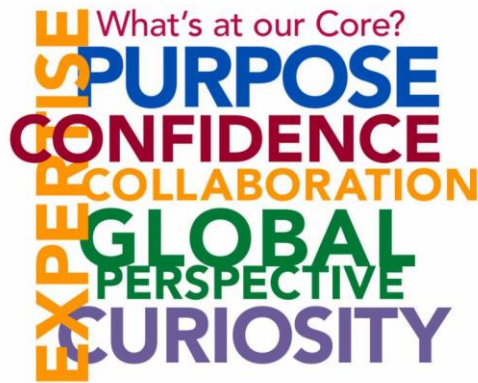


*The Sun* featured a gallery of BSA alumni including fashion designer [Christian Siriano](#). (Photo Karl Merton Ferron).

To see the gallery, [click here](#).

- Tens of thousands of people from over 70 countries are tuning in to **Nadia Sirota's** "Meet the Composer" podcast on Q2 Music, WQXR. [Learn more in this NY Times article!](#) If you're in New York next week, she's curating a week of performances and conversations at [Symphony Space](#), culminating in the world premiere of a newly-commissioned work.
- BSA grad **Sara VanDerBeek**. is one of ten artists featured in Photo-Poetics at the [Guggenheim](#), an exhibit that examines the concerns of a younger generation of artists and contextualizes their work within the history of art and visual culture.
- Jeweler **Shana Kroiz** is interviewed with fellow makers at the new Baltimore Jewelry Center in a [Baltimore Magazine](#) feature.
- In addition to her role on "[NCIS: New Orleans](#)," **Shalita Grant** appears as Aurelia Johnson on the new PBS series "[Mercy Street](#)."
- Grad **Olivia Ercolano** works with mentors Donald Hicken and Tony Tsendeas in "Three Sisters" at [Annapolis Shakespeare Company](#), opening this weekend.

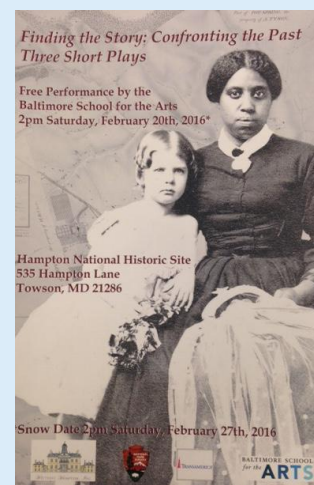
## See BSA's future stars at Expressions!



Join us for BSA's annual fundraiser and showcase, this year focusing on the school's core values. The Opening Gala is on Saturday, March 5 at 6:30 (Tickets \$350); Family performances on Sunday, March 6 at 2 & 5:30 (Tickets \$15/\$20); and Stage One|FANS show on Tuesday, March 8 at 6:30 (Tickets \$100). We've heard there'll be Latin dance, songs from *The Whiz*, scenes from *Servant of Two Masters* by Carlo Goldani, a few TWIGS in the mix, and more. It's a can't miss, and a win/win: a great show for you & support for our students. All the proceeds benefit the programs and kids at BSA. Every year, our shows sell out so be sure to get your tickets soon! For tickets, [click here!](#)

## BSA's Spring Calendar

It's hard to imagine while Baltimore is buried in snow, but spring will come and along with it, many opportunities (in addition to Expressions) to see BSA's students perform. Please click here to see the our [Calendar of Events](#) that includes dance (*Appalachian Spring*), theatre (*The Beggar's Opera*), arts exhibitions, concerts, and so much more! Coming in **February**: **Faculty Recital** on the 8th at 5:30 pm; **Junior Scenes** the 10th-12<sup>th</sup> at 4:30 & 7:30 pm; and **Finding the Story** on the 20<sup>th</sup> at Hampton National Historic Site. For the story behind **Finding the Story**, [click here!](#) Look for press on the project on Fox 45 on February 3, on WMAR, and in the Sun's upcoming Black History Month Guide.



## BSA Serves Thousands of City Students Each Year

Next week, BSA will welcome nearly a thousand young artists for auditions for the 2016-17 school year ([Click here to see revised schedule](#)). About a hundred of these students will be chosen based on their artistic potential only (no academics or recommendations) to join BSA's high school program where they will find an engaged, diverse, talented and motivated student body. In May, auditions for BSA's TWIGS program will be open for city students in grades 1-7 ([Click here for schedule](#)). Several hundred new kids will also become a part of BSA's vibrant community. But the high school and TWIGS programs are only part of BSA's story. In an effort to reach more children across Baltimore with opportunities in the arts, BSA is engaged in partnerships that offer meaningful experiences including HelloTWIGS!, lessons through the Boys & Girls Clubs of Metro Baltimore, as well as free performances and programs. All told, BSA reaches nearly 5,000 kids a year with the arts!

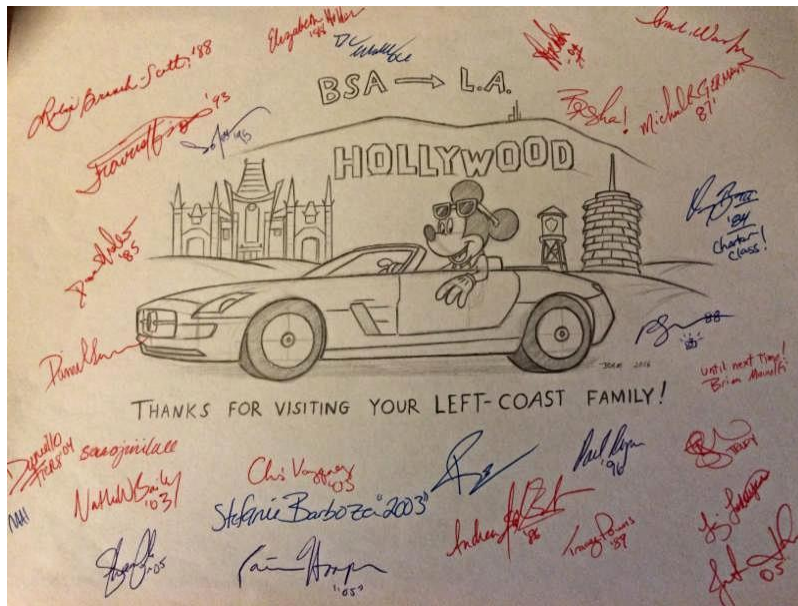


## A Visit to the West Coast

BSA Director Chris Ford and colleagues visited alumni, arts foundations and educational institutions in L.A. and San Francisco to learn about the state of the arts on the West Coast. We were delighted to find much of the thinking laid out in our own [Strategic Plan](#) was reinforced by the individuals and organizations we met. Stops along the way included:

- The [Grammy Foundation](#) which shares similar goals with BSA: to foster not only talent but the whole young person.
- USC's brand new [Gloria Kaufman School of Dance](#). **Confidence** and **Curiosity** were a few of the buzz words!
- [Stanford ARTS](#), another new and innovative program that includes "match up" grants offered to two students from different disciplines. Creating **Collaboration** is one of their goals!
- Individual meetings with alumni doing incredible work, as well as a "reunion" with more than thirty grads and guests. Lots of **Purpose & Expertise** in the room!

For more on the California trip, visit Chris Ford's blog [On the Arts & Education](#).



Animator Brian Mainolfi has worked for Disney and currently illustrates Fox's [American Dad!](#) among other assignments. He offered this keepsake signed by BSA's California alumni.

Where the arts change kids' lives  
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