



BTWHSPVA's new album, *Night & Day*, featuring James Kings on drums was released in late January '08. Director Marantz said, "We will be in the studio this June '08 recording a new CD featuring drummers who helped James during his time at Booker T. Washington. Tain, Carl Allen, Mike Drake and Andrew Griffith will all be featured with our "DownBeat" winning jazz quartet. James was recorded just a month before his death, some of those cuts will be used on this new release." □



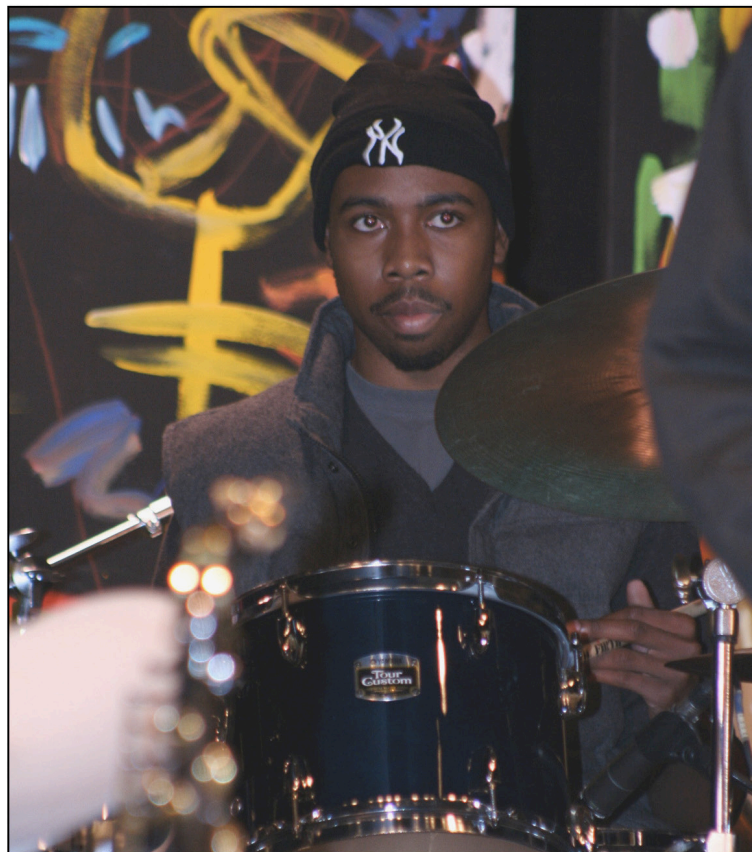
IAJE '08 BTW Jazz Combo I at the Intercontinental Hotel concert.



Jordan Pettay Soloing as a member of the TMEA All-State Jazz Ensemble at the February 2008 convention in San Antonio.

Booker T. Washington HSPVA *"With Deep Sadness..."*

Many letters and emails were signed with such expressions of sympathy as they arrived at the office of **Bart Marantz**, the jazz studies director for the Booker T. Washington H.S.P.V.A. in Dallas this past April following the untimely death of their prodigy drummer, James Kings.



The late Booker T. Washington H.S.P.V.A. drummer, James Kings in performance at the recent 2008 IAJE convention in Toronto.

In Marantz's own words, *"I am a bit of an old dog, but James Kings taught me new tricks every time I heard him play. He had his own sound and showed his musical soul every time his stick hit his kit. He played the drums as a linear instrument and everyone who heard his extraordinary talent was as amazed as I was each and every day he graced our school. The only thing better than his art was his person, humble and unassuming he taught us all what grace and class is."*

Continued, next page....

James received an email from the Manhattan School of Music the morning he was killed stating he was the recipient of a full four-year scholarship to their conservatory. This was a one hundred and sixty thousand dollar scholarship! It was another confirmation of his talent and gift. He was heard only once by the director of Jazz studies at Manhattan School of Music in New York, who is also a drummer, but that was enough.

Thanks, James, for making my life better, for giving me the reason to come to our school every day and for gracing me with your incredible precious personality. You will be with me always."

By all accounts James Kings was an impressive player. When Admad Jamal's drummer heard him play he was so impressed with James he gave him his sticks!

The Executive director for the Monterey Jazz Festival named the weekend's competition the James Kings Monterey Combo competition for 2008 in James' memory (BTWHSPVA's Jazz Combo I was scheduled to appear at the Monterey Jazz Festival this year but decided to cancel upon the death of Kings).

Texas State Senator Bob Deuell: District 2, heard James about a year ago and went right out and bought him a new drum set.

When James was heard at IAJE in Toronto this past January 2008, the head of jazz studies from the Manhattan School of Music awarded him a full 4-year scholarship on the spot. A total of about one hundred and sixty thousand dollars! This was confirmed in an email just 5 hours after he died.

James was the Skidmore Fellow last year and the faculty was so impressed they put his picture on the Skidmore Web site! While at Skidmore James played for **Ed Shaunnessy** who was the drummer for the Tonight Show when it was hosted by Johnny Carson. Ed was so impressed with James he gave him one of his cymbals! Jeff Seagrave of The Jazz Skidmore Institute wrote in a message to Bart Marantz, *"I just wanted to say how desperately sorry we all are at Skidmore, and most especially in the Office of the Dean of Special*

Programs, to learn of the death of James Kings. I personally remember James from last summer and we all have a picture of him with some of the other students...This is a terrible tragedy...we are all deeply saddened by the news."

Similar condolences came from The Thelonious Monk Institute of Jazz, Booker T. Washington HSPVA alumni, The Julliard School, The Monterey Jazz Festival, The Interlochen Arts Academy, and from jazz educators, friends and those who had heard him play.

A memorial and celebration concert was held on May 30th, 2008, for with drummer, **Jeff 'Tain' Watts** filling James vacant drum throne. Watts appeared courtesy of the Thelonious Monk Institute in performance with the school's "DownBeat" Jazz Quartet.



Memorial concert combo members, Luke Marantz –Piano; Kevin Bach – Bass; Jeff 'Tain' Watts–drums; Jordan Pettay – Sax; Tony Gutierrez - Aux Percussion

The Sabian Corporation presented Booker T. Washington HSPVA with a set of cymbals presented by **Watts** to remain at the school in James Kings' name. Also, the Remo Company presented a drumhead with a portrait of James painted on it to his family and another will hang in the Jazz Studies room at Booker T. Washington.

Continued, next page....



The Remo drum company had a special drumhead created with James' image imprinted on the outside. It was presented to the family during the memorial.

BOOKER T. WASHINGTON HSPVA DOWNBEAT AWARD WINNERS

Though the school year at BTWHSPVA was deeply affected by the death of James Kings there were several uplifting accomplishments for the jazz ensembles. Several individuals received 2008 DownBeat Student Music awards. James Kings performed in 8 of the 10 winning categories.

Outstanding Performance Category:

1. Jazzmeia Horn, Jazz Vocalist
2. Annie Dingwall, Blues/Pop/ Rock Soloist
3. Kevin Bach, Bass Jazz Soloist
4. Kale Scherler, Trombone Jazz Soloist

Winners in other categories:

1. Luke Marantz, Jazz Vocalist
2. BTW Jazz Quartet, Jazz Combo

Jordan Pettay – Alto/Tenor/Soprano Sax

Luke Marantz – Piano

Kevin Bach – Bass

James Kings – Drums

3. BTWHSPVA Midi Ensemble, Blues/Pop/Rock Group

4. Mark Meadows, piano/elec piano
Blues/Pop/Rock Soloist

5. Jordan Pettay, alto sax Jazz Soloist

6. Luke Marantz, piano Jazz Soloist

Booker T. Washington HSPVA Jazz Program Utilizes talent from Thelonious Monk Institute grant

Bart Marantz reported, "Because of our Peer To Peer grant from the Thelonious Monk Institute we had the honor of having and enjoying weekly teaching by studio musician, **Ron Jones**, Tenor Sax and **Andrew Griffith**, Drums and a workshop and performance by renowned drum kit artist **Jeffery 'Tain' Watts**. This honor in working with some of the countries top jazz clinicians with **Jazz Combo I** is by way of the "Peer To Peer" Thelonious Monk Institute grant for 2007/2008. This opportunity allowed our combo to work directly in rehearsal with top jazz educators and musicians."

Continued, next page....



Luke Marantz and Jordan Pettay, Instrumental DownBeat Award winners.