



CONRAD O. JOHNSON MUSIC AND FINE ARTS FOUNDATION

Conrad O. Johnson Regional Youth Orchestra

2011-2012 Performances and College Tour

Mr. William Portis and Mr. Claude Robinson

BAND DIRECTORS

March 2012



The Conrad O. Johnson Music & Fine Arts Foundation

<http://conradjohnsonfoundation.org>

1320 Main – Houston, Texas 77002 – 713-299-7106 – Fax: 713 451.0466– Email: foundation@conradjohnsonfoundation.org

Invest in the Realization of a Dream Houston Area Students to Perform at the 2012 New York City Jazz Festival @ Lincoln Center

**“PROF”
Conrad O. Johnson, Sr.
Founder**

Dear Friends of Our Children,

Being the corporate community icon and perennial sponsor of educational and artistic endeavors that you are, this appeal is being made to you to support the young musicians of **The Conrad O. Johnson Regional Youth Orchestra** who need your help. We would like to request that you partner with us, **The Conrad O. Johnson Music and Fine Arts Foundation**, to ensure that our talented musicians are able to take advantage of another “once in a lifetime” opportunity. As you may be aware, our youth orchestra completed a very successful performance at the world renowned and historic Carnegie Hall last year in June 2010. In fact, the performance was so successful that they have been invited back to New York to participate in the **New York City Jazz Festival at the prestigious Lincoln Center**. Obviously, this group of talented young students’ hard work and commitment, through practice and more practice, has certainly paid dividends. Many of these young musicians are from underserved populations, in elementary to high school, and had never been outside of Houston until that trip to New York. We would like to continue to manifest our Foundation’s belief in the importance of education, combined with providing opportunities for rich life experiences, as seeds to ensure the future success of these deserving young people. Their unique opportunity to participate in this most highly regarded jazz festival certainly meets that end. This exciting trip will again (as the one in 2010) include a music college tour with suggested visits to Julliard and The New School.

Background: As you may already know, the late Conrad “Prof” Johnson was a tremendous influence on music education and jazz entertainment in and around Texas and the nation for many years. While at Houston’s Kashmere High School, he cultivated some of the most outstanding high school jazz orchestras and musicians in the world. In 1999, Prof. Johnson established the **Conrad O Johnson Music and Fine Arts Foundation** to assist area students interested in music and the arts, with programs to aid in the furtherance of their artistic skills and ambitions. As part of the Foundation’s mission, his legacy of excellence in youth education and jazz performance continues. The Foundation, in addition to implementing programs to award scholarships and musical instruments to students based upon merit, and programs involving music workshops and jazz clinics with major jazz artists, also established the **Conrad O. Johnson Regional Youth Orchestra (COJRYO)**. This orchestra was formed as a vehicle to allow area youth to continuously enhance their musical skills while providing a way to showcase their talents through performances; as they so expertly did at their performance at New York’s Carnegie Hall back in June (receiving not one, but two standing ovations from a audience of over 2,400), and more recently at our Founder's Alma Mater, Wiley College Founder's Day Celebration on March 18, 2011.

Therefore, we are rallying the Houston corporate community to contribute funds or in-kind services toward the realization of these students’ dream of making a return trip for an encore performance in New York in 2012. The estimated cost for travel and accommodations for 40 participants for the 4-day trip is approximately \$80,000. Parents have already taken a very active role in fundraising efforts, but we need help from the entire community. Your early contributions toward (and patronage for) this worthwhile endeavor would be greatly appreciated to assure the realization of the dreams of these talented and disciplined students.

So in conclusion, we would greatly appreciate your support in assuring the continuance of Prof. Johnson’s vision and legacy of excellence for our youth in their artistic, musical, and life endeavors, by getting a **tax deductible fiscal or in-kind contribution to us**. In addition to you or your organization being given participant privileges for the events, your generous support for these endeavors will be highlighted in pre and post event notices in local media outlets, such as the Houston Chronicle, The Defender, radio and TV, etc. Please contact the **Conrad O. Johnson Music and Fine Arts Foundation** using the contact information on this letterhead, or fill out the attached form and mail your donation today.

Sincerely,

Artie Onayemi

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**Please Make a Donation to Invest in the Realization of a Dream: *Lincoln Center*
*COJRYO Students to Perform in 2012***

Donation Information

Amount:	___	\$10,000.00	___	\$500.00
	___	\$5,000.00	___	\$100.00
	___	\$2,500.00	___	\$50.00
	___	\$1,000.00	___	Other

**NO CONTRIBUTION IS TOO SMALL*

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All gifts to the Conrad O. Johnson Music and Fine Arts Foundation are tax deductible to the extent allowed by law. In compliance with IRS tax reporting laws, the amount of your charitable contribution is limited to the excess of your payment over the value of goods or services provided by COJMFAF.