



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

August 14, 2023

Ashley Mirakian, ashley.mirakian@atlantasymphony.org

ATLANTA SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA HOSTS INAUGURAL HBCU ACCESSFEST PRESENTED BY DELTA AIR LINES AND INVESCO QQQ

MORE THAN 30 HBCUs, COMMUNITY ORGANIZATIONS & BUSINESSES TO PARTICIPATE IN THE COLLEGE, CAREER AND COMMUNITY FAIR, INCLUDING 100 BLACK MEN, UNITED NEGRO COLLEGE FUND, & HBCU ALUMNI NETWORK

ATLANTA – The **Atlanta Symphony Orchestra** will host its inaugural **HBCU AccessFest: College, Career and Community Fair**, on **Saturday, September 16**, 12pm to 6pm at the Woodruff Arts Center. Presented by Delta Air Lines and Invesco QQQ, the HBCU AccessFest will provide valuable resources and information to help students and families explore their options for higher education, internships, mentorship, and career paths.

Attendees are encouraged to explore four Access Zones: College, Career, Family Resources, and Community.

“The Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs) AccessFest serves as part of our ongoing effort to invest in Atlanta’s communities of color,” said Brandi Hoyos, Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion director at the Atlanta Symphony Orchestra. “It’s been incredible to see how many organizations have stepped forward to join us by participating in this event to show their commitment to investing in our youth’s future. We are truly thankful for their support and grateful for being able to bring together so many resources in our community.”

The City of Atlanta is providing support through Mayor Andre Dickens’ ATL Year of the Youth initiative.

As part of the College Access Zone, students will have the opportunity to meet with recruiters from over 30 Historically Black Colleges and Universities during the **HBCU College Fair**:

- Albany State University
- Bethune-Cookman University
- Bowie State University
- Cheyney University
- Claflin University
- Clark Atlanta University

- Coppin State University
- Elizabeth City State University
- Florida A&M University
- Fort Valley State University
- Tuskegee University
- Grambling State University
- Hampton University
- Howard University
- Jackson State University
- Lincoln University of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
- Mississippi Valley State University
- Morehouse College
- Morris Brown College
- University of Maryland Eastern Shore
- North Carolina A&T State University
- Saint Augustine’s University
- Savannah State University
- Southern University and A&M College
- Spelman College
- Tennessee State University
- Tougaloo College
- Virginia State University
- Virginia Union University
- Wilberforce University
- Xavier University of LA

Within the **Career Access Zone**, young professionals can engage with their peers, network with the [Emerging 100®](#) and the [Collegiate 100](#) programs, and connect with corporate and non-profit recruiters.

The **Family Resource Access Zone** will feature community vendors and non-profit organizations providing resources towards financial wellness and mentorship. The **Community Access Zone** will include interactive booths and workshops introducing career pipelines. Attendees can also enjoy and support vendors from Black-owned and HBCU-owned businesses.

Community organizations represented include the [Aytes Agency](#), [Atlanta Influences Everything \(AIE\)](#), the [HBCU Alumni Alliance](#), the [NFL Alumni Network](#), the [United Negro College Fund \(UNCF\)](#), [NextGen America](#), [Our Money Matters](#), the [Thurgood Marshall College Fund](#), the [Russell Innovation Center for Entrepreneurs \(RICE\)](#), and more. Atlanta Mayor Andre Dickens has offered support as part of the ATL Year of the Youth initiative.

Other campus activities for the weekend include the ASO’s “Movies in Concert” production of [Marvel Studios’ Black Panther in Concert](#) on September 15-17, furthering the ASO’s commitment to the importance of representation and diversity in the arts.

Admission is free to the public and tickets for the HBCU AccessFest are not required. Additional details are available here: [HBCU AccessFest: College, Career and Community Fair | Atlanta Symphony Orchestra \(aso.org\)](https://www.aso.org)

About the Atlanta Symphony Orchestra

Under the leadership of Music Director Nathalie Stutzmann, the Atlanta Symphony Orchestra (ASO) offers live performances, media initiatives, and learning programs that unite, educate and enrich our community through the engaging and transformative power of orchestral music experiences. The ASO engages the diverse international community of our city, bringing people together in harmony—including our youngest citizens, with extensive opportunities for youth and families to fall in love with music. Two of the hallmark education programs celebrate anniversaries this season: the Atlanta Youth Symphony Orchestra celebrates 50 years and the Talent Development Program turns 30.

The Orchestra's range and depth are featured in more than 150 concerts each year, including the flagship Delta Classical Series, Movies in Concert, Family Concerts, Coca-Cola Holiday series, and many community and education concerts. In addition, the ASO presents many vibrant, wide-ranging events and artists through its Delta Atlanta Symphony Hall Live presentations. The ASO also performs with the ASO Chorus, originally founded by Robert Shaw, and currently under the direction of Norman Mackenzie. The Chorus is featured on nine of the ASO's 27 Grammy® Award-winning recordings.

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