



ART PORTER[®]
MUSIC
E D U C A T I O N

Invitation to Coverage
July 27- August 1, 2026

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A Work of ART Returns with Jazz Icon Gerald Albright and Homegrown Star Gabriel Wade

Art Porter Music Education, Inc. (APME) will host the 16th annual A Work of Art benefit, July 27 – August 1, 2026, a weeklong celebration of music, education, and community impact. The festivities begin Monday, July 27, with a kickoff at Little Rock City Hall, followed by a week of dynamic performances.

On Wednesday, July 29, Shannon “Sangin Diva” Pearson, a powerhouse vocalist known for her soulful sound and commanding stage presence, takes the stage. Thursday, July 30, features rising artist Gabriel Wade, an APME alumnus who exemplifies the success of investing in young talent. The week culminates on Saturday, August 1, with internationally acclaimed, Grammy-nominated saxophonist Gerald Albright, whose signature sound and world-class musicianship will close out the celebration. Throughout the week, audiences will also enjoy performances by APME’s talented Minors in Music students and Young Emcees.

A Work of Art is APME’s signature fundraiser, continuing the legacy of Art Porter, Sr. and Art Porter, Jr. by promoting music education and providing scholarships to college-bound students. During the main event on Saturday, August 1, at The CHARTS Theater on the campus of Pulaski Technical College in North Little Rock, APME will introduce its 2026 scholarship recipient, Erick Orellana Esteban, a graduating senior from Bryant High School. Erick will receive a \$3,000 renewable scholarship.

About Erick Orellana Esteban

Erick is an accomplished euphonium player and dedicated student who has earned All-Region and All-State honors throughout his high school career. He has served as a section leader in the Legacy of Bryant Marching Band and is a member of the school’s Wind Symphony, where he has distinguished himself as a top-performing musician. The son of Guatemalan immigrants and a first-generation college student, Erick plans to attend Arkansas Tech University to major in Music Education. He aspires to become a band director and youth mentor, using music to inspire and guide future generations.

APME, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization, honors the legacy of Art Porter, Sr., a jazz pianist, educator, and television producer, and Art Porter, Jr., a world-renowned jazz recording artist. Both were deeply committed to serving their community through music. Today, APME continues that legacy by fostering the musical and educational aspirations of the next generation.

A WORK OF ART ENTERTAINMENT SCHEDULE

MON | July 27 – AWOA Kickoff, Little Rock City Hall, Noon

TUE | July 28 – Minors in Music, Park Plaza (Level One), Noon – Free

WED | July 29 – Shannon Pearson, Ron Robinson Theater, 7 PM – \$55-\$65

THU | July 30 – Gabriel Wade Quintet, Mosaic Templars Center, 7 PM – \$50

FRI | July 31 – Porter Players Jam Session, Four Points by Sheraton Midtown, 7 PM – Free

**SAT | August 1 – Scholarship Program featuring Gerald Albright, and APME’S All-Stars
The CHARTS Theater, 8 PM – \$65-\$75**

For tickets and event details, visit: <http://artporter.org/tickets>

Tickets are on sale now online at artporter.org or call [\(501\) 492-9120](tel:5014929120). For more information, visit APME online or check out Art Porter Music Education Inc.’s Facebook page.

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