

Exploring the Creative Entrepreneurship of African-American Piano Students in the HBCU School of Music

Clark Atlanta University, Collegiate Chapter

Presenters: Cameron Barnes, Winter Salaam, Kennedy Smith

Advisor: Dr. Yingzhou Hu

Date/Location: Sunday, March 17, 2024. 11:45 a.m.-12:05 p.m.

Rooms 208-211, Hilton Atlanta Downtown, 255 Courtland Street NE.

Session Description:

This session aims to showcase the exceptional, creative, and entrepreneurial journeys of African-American piano students at the prestigious HBCU, Clark Atlanta University. Through a comprehensive and diverse curriculum, students have made transformative contributions and redefined their journey across various musical genres. Students employed innovative approaches to shaping the dynamic, broad, multifaceted music industry.

The Vision of the Department of Music, Clark Atlanta University

The Department of Music at Clark Atlanta University is committed to fostering excellence in music education, performance, and creative entrepreneurship. The program is designed to prepare students for a multitude of music careers as well as for advanced studies beyond the baccalaureate level.

- **Innovative Curriculum**
- **Transformative Education**
- **Diverse Genres**

Join us as we celebrate remarkable student achievements and explore the intersection of artistry and business in our pursuit of success.

Cameron Barnes: Growing up in Chicago, a senior student in piano concentration at Clark Atlanta University. Emphasis on expanding his repertoire by learning from African diaspora composers. His passion for exploring diverse music pedagogical methods. Cameron advocates for flexibility in pedagogy to accommodate diverse learning styles.

Winter Salaam: A music major from New York with concentrations in Vocal Studies and Commercial Composition. She shares her journey of embracing the rich history of music, from classical to jazz and connecting contemporary music with its historical black music roots. She envisions a future career as a recording artist and hopefully a music therapist, aiming to use music as a communication bridge and emotional connector.

Kennedy Smith: a 2022 graduate from Northern Illinois with concentrations in Piano Studies and Commercial Composition, tours internationally as a keyboardist for Lil Yachty and serves as Musical Director for Brownstone. She serves as Principal Piano Instructor to multiple actors on the set of Denzel Washington's "The Piano Lesson." Avery's career is a testament to leveraging artistic talent with entrepreneurial skills to navigate and influence the modern music scene.

Contact:

Yingzhou Hu, Assistant Professor of Piano Studies. Clark Atlanta University. Email: yhu@cau.edu

Phillip Davis, Chair of Music Department, Clark Atlanta University. Email: pdavis@cau.edu