



RECORDING ACADEMY®'S BLACK MUSIC COLLECTIVE AND AMAZON MUSIC AWARD \$20,000 IN DONATIONS FOR MUSIC EQUIPMENT TO TWO HISTORICALLY BLACK COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES AFFECTED BY HURRICANE IDA

SANTA MONICA, CALIF. (OCT. 28, 2021) — The Recording Academy®'s Black Music Collective (BMC), in partnership with Amazon Music, have selected two Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs) to each receive a \$10,000 donation for musical equipment as part of the organizations' ongoing partnership to provide students at HBCUs the opportunity to learn all facets of the music industry. The donations — first announced with the BMC and Amazon partnership in February — have been awarded to Dillard University and Xavier University of Louisiana. The selected HBCUs were impacted by Hurricane Ida and will utilize the funds to replace students' musical equipment that was damaged or destroyed during the storm.

"Fostering opportunities for aspiring Black music professionals is one of the BMC and Recording Academy's most urgent priorities," said Valeisha Butterfield Jones, Co-President of the Recording Academy. "Partnering with Amazon Music to award donations for music equipment to music programs on Historically Black College and University campuses affected by Hurricane Ida is the latest action in our commitment to invest in the next generation of Black music leaders. We're honored to offer these scholarships to Dillard University and Xavier University, both of Louisiana, and continue creating pathways for success."

"With this donation, Amazon Music and the Recording Academy are coming together to support the music departments at Historically Black Colleges and Universities, which are vital to developing the next generation of Black musicians," said Ryan Redington, Vice President of Amazon Music. "Hurricane Ida has made this school year even more challenging for universities across Louisiana, that's why it was so essential for us to step up to support Dillard University and Xavier University and help to replace musical equipment damaged by the storm."

The BMC and Amazon Music partnership has implemented several initiatives in support of aspiring Black music professionals studying at HBCUs. In June, the organizations announced Jawan Davidson (North Carolina Central University), Akeal Evans (Morehouse College) and Nyah Hardmon (Howard University) as recipients of the "Your Future Is Now" scholarship totaling \$10,000 each. The recipients were also offered the opportunity to participate in a two-week immersive rotation program with Amazon Music department leads, providing each student a detailed look at their particular fieldwork at Amazon Music.

The Recording Academy's Black Music Collective is a group of prominent Black music creators and professionals who share the common goal of amplifying Black voices within the Academy and the music community. For more information on the Black Music Collective, visit [here](#).

ABOUT THE RECORDING ACADEMY

- Recording Academy®'s Black Music Collective And Amazon Music Award \$20,000 In Music Equipment Donations To Historically Black Colleges And Universities Affected By Hurricane Ida | Page 1 of 2



The Recording Academy represents the voices of performers, songwriters, producers, engineers, and all music professionals. Dedicated to ensuring the recording arts remain a thriving part of our shared cultural heritage, the Academy honors music's history while investing in its future through the GRAMMY Museum®, advocates on behalf of music creators, supports music people in times of need through MusiCares®, and celebrates artistic excellence through the GRAMMY Awards® — music's only peer-recognized accolade and highest achievement. As the world's leading society of music professionals, we work year-round to foster a more inspiring world for creators.

For more information about the Academy, please visit www.grammy.com. For breaking news and exclusive content, follow @RecordingAcad on [Twitter](#), "like" Recording Academy on [Facebook](#), and join the Recording Academy's social communities on [Instagram](#), [YouTube](#) and [LinkedIn](#).

###

CONTACTS

Christina Dudash

Recording Academy

christina.dudash@recordingacademy.com