



RECORDING ACADEMY® AND EBONY ANNOUNCE PARTNERSHIP WITH LAUNCH OF PODCAST SERIES IN HONOR OF BLACK MUSIC MONTH, THE SERIES WILL HIGHLIGHT THE IMPACT EACH BLACK MUSIC COLLECTIVE MEMBER HAS MADE TO THE MUSIC COMMUNITY

SANTA MONICA, CALIF. (JUNE 21, 2021) — The Recording Academy® and *EBONY*, one of the largest Black-owned media companies dedicated to telling Black stories, announced today their partnership to commemorate Black Music Month. In addition to the partnership, a six-part podcast series, "Recording Academy x *EBONY*: Black Music Collective Podcast," hosted by two-time GRAMMY® nominee **MC Lyte**, will premiere **Thursday, June 24 at 8 p.m. ET / 5 p.m. PT** and follow every Thursday for six weeks. The series will include various members of the Recording Academy's Black Music Collective, where they discuss their contributions and incredible impact within the community and the music industry at large. Confirmed participants and BMC members include four-time GRAMMY Award winner **Yolanda Adams**, General Counsel and EVP of Business & Legal Affairs for Universal Music Group **Jeff Harleston**, four-time GRAMMY winner **H.E.R.**, five-time GRAMMY winners **Jimmy Jam & Terry Lewis**, former Chair and CEO, BET Networks **Debra Lee**, and GRAMMY Award winner **Ledisi**.

"We are so excited to highlight the great work of our Black Music Collective members and honor Black Music Month through our joint podcast series in partnership with *EBONY*," said Adam Roth, Senior Vice President, Partnerships & Business Development of the Recording Academy. "We look forward to sharing these powerful discussions that elevate Black music creators within the music community and continue to inspire a new generation of talent."

"We are thrilled to partner with the Recording Academy to celebrate and spotlight the artists and creators within the Black Music Collective and to be able to share their incredible journeys and stories through this dynamic, new series with our audiences. *EBONY* remains committed to ensuring that the Black experience and perspective is always amplified and music is at the epicenter of that experience. Black music is and has always been the connector of all communities across the globe and its creators' contribution is immeasurable," said Michele Ghee, *EBONY*'s CEO. "These conversations are compelling and so necessary to ignite ways to tell the stories of our rich musical legacy and to recognize those who have contributed so greatly to it."

The full podcast lineup can be found below:

- **Episode 1: June 24 – Ceiling Breaker – A Conversation With Debra Lee**

Debra Lee is one of the most influential female voices in the entertainment industry with a trailblazing career spanning over three decades. Lee served as the chairman and CEO of BET Networks, the leading provider of entertainment for the African-American audience and consumers of Black culture globally, for over 13 years and, most recently, launched The Monarchs Collective, a diversity-focused consulting firm.



MC Lyte will walk Lee through her groundbreaking journey, legacy and commitment to giving back to the community.

- **Episode 2: July 1 – Making Change – A Conversation With Jeff Harleston**

Jeff Harleston is one of the most powerful executives in the entertainment industry and has overseen some of the biggest releases in music. He currently is working to amplify and expand programs and initiatives to support marginalized communities in the ongoing fight for equality, justice and inclusion.

MC Lyte will have an in-depth discussion with Harleston on the keys to longevity in the music industry and his bold fight to make change.

- **Episode 3: July 8 – Legend Status – A Conversation With Jimmy Jam & Terry Lewis**

Jimmy Jam and Terry Lewis have won five GRAMMY Awards® and been nominated in the Producer Of The Year category 11 times, more than anyone else. They have more *Billboard* No. 1 hits than any other songwriting and production team in history, and have earned more than 100 gold, platinum, multi-platinum, and diamond albums for their work with such iconic artists as Michael Jackson, Luther Vandross, George Michael, Gwen Stefani, Kanye West, and many more.

MC Lyte will talk with the music legends to discuss their impact and the key to their long-lasting partnership.

- **Episode 4: July 15 – It's a Marathon, Not a Race – A Conversation With Ledisi**

Since arriving on the scene in the late 1990s, powerhouse vocalist Ledisi has garnered three Soul Train Music Awards, a NAACP Theater Award and six NAACP Image Award nominations. After a distinguished two-decade career, Ledisi earned her first GRAMMY Award (for Best Traditional R&B Performance for her hit song, "Anything for You") this year. Previously, the powerhouse performer was nominated 12 other times.

MC Lyte will sit down with Ledisi and talk through her journey in music on a road that hasn't always been easy and how she has been able to remain true to who she is as an artist.

- **Episode 5: July 22 – Finding Inspiration – A Conversation With Yolanda Adams**

Billboard Magazine Gospel Artist of the last decade Yolanda Adams is a four-time GRAMMY Award-winning artist who believes her music heals, encourages and inspires others to trust more than themselves. She has triumphantly carried the torch for contemporary gospel and inspirational music via 13 albums.

MC Lyte will sit down with Yolanda Adams and discuss her journey to becoming a household name in the gospel world and the power of faith.

- **Episode 6: July 29 – She is Just Getting Started – A Conversation With H.E.R.**

In just under five years, H.E.R. has proven herself to be a versatile R&B force to be reckoned with, earning 13 GRAMMY nominations and four wins, as well as an Academy Award for her powerful song "Fight For You" from the Warner Bros. Pictures' film *Judas and the Black Messiah*.



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MC Lyte will sit down with H.E.R. to discuss how she has been able to explode on the music scene and captivate audiences around the world with her unique style.

"Recording Academy x *EBONY*: Black Music Collective Podcast's" six-part series will stream Thursdays at 8 p.m. ET / 5 p.m. PT beginning June 24 on [EBONY.com](https://www.ebony.com) and *EBONY*'s [YouTube](#) and [Facebook](#) social networks, as well as [GRAMMY.com/BlackMusicCollectivePodcast](https://www.grammy.com/BlackMusicCollectivePodcast) and the Recording Academy's official [Facebook](#) channel.

"Recording Academy x *EBONY*: Black Music Collective Podcast" is Presented by Proctor & Gamble.

Creative assets for the podcast series can be found [here](#).

ABOUT THE RECORDING ACADEMY

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](#).

ABOUT EBONY

Now in its 75th year, *EBONY* continues to be the leading authority for all facets of Black life – staying rooted as an anchor of Black culture. Under new ownership and leadership, the rebirth of *EBONY* signals the evolution of the beloved publication as a 21st century digital media brand with a focus on creating exceptional content and experiences illuminating the Black perspective.

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