

Manna House Workshops, Inc.
338 East 106th Street
New York, NY 10029

Register Now for October-June Classes

Manna House begins its regular school year on October 1, when all group classes and private lessons will be in session. Registration begins September 15 and is ongoing throughout the year—it's never too late to start. Stop by or call 212-722-8223 to sign up.

Heating Oil Issues

The high cost of oil is burning up our reserve fund. Contributions are much needed toward the purchase of this necessary commodity which has increased from \$12,000 to an anticipated \$35,000 as an annual expense for Manna House. Please contact us if you can help.



Student Jane Alves Harris at the June 2008 Recital



Adult Woodwind Ensemble performing with instructor Enrique Fernandez (left)

Thanks to all the parents, students, volunteers, and contributors who keep Manna House going when the going gets tough. Special thanks to **Rev. & Mrs. George and Helen Webber** for their generous donation.

DVD's Are Available

We have video recordings of the 2008 Student recital for sale for \$20 (\$10 deposit, plus \$10 when the video is delivered). We also have DVD's of Gloria DeNard's MEEE concert in June 2008 available for \$15. Stop by or call to request a copy today.

Manna House is supported by the **New York State Council on the Arts**, the **NYC Department of Cultural Affairs**, the **Mary Flagler Carey Charitable Trust**, the **Hyde & Watson Foundation**, the **Brick Presbyterian Church**, and the **Church of the Heavenly Rest**.



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Articles by Gloria DeNard, Carlos Prescod and Brenda Fair-Alexander. Layout by Tony Melone. Photography by Michael Simon.

MANNA MESSENGER

October 2008

Celebrate With Us Gala November 9 at the Museum of the City of NY

Mark your calendar and reserve your seat now at our gala event celebrating our 41st year! See Ms. D's notes inside for all the details.

Two Talented Pre-Schoolers

Our Annual Recital took place on June 22, 2008 at the Museo del Barrio. Among all the talented children and adults, the youngest were 5-year-old Louis Jordan, Jr. and 3-year-old Elijah Massenberg. Louis demonstrated three styles of drumming: jazz, shuffle, and funk. Such coordination at a young age is rare. Elijah played "Yankee Doodle" without missing a note or beat while nonchalantly looking at the audience.



Carol Perez and Maimouna Diallou performing in June



Elijah Massenberg (left), Louis Jordan Jr. with teacher Brandon Lewis

New Opportunities at MHW Chorus and band for ages 7-teen

We will be interviewing young musicians and singers to join our **Junior Chorus** and **Junior Jazz Band**. Inquire at Manna House or call us at 212-722-8223.

Music Together Program

We are developing an exciting **Music Together Program** for babies to pre-school age children and their parents. The program will start as soon as there is sufficient interest, so contact Gloria DeNard at 212-722-8223 if you would like to be included.

Congratulations! MHW Students advance

Two Manna House piano students were accepted into the prestigious music advancement program at Juilliard. They are **Luis Zamora** and **Aaron Witherspoon**. After completing two years in the Juilliard program, Aaron was recommended to the Middle School Jazz Program at Lincoln Center. We are expecting great things from these young men.



"Baby Tap" performers at the 2008 recital

NYSCA Grant Provides Us with Technical Assistant

Ms. Pi-Isis Ankhra in conjunction with our present Board of Directors is assisting in increasing, augmenting and developing a pro-active board to assist Manna House in cultivating a greater financial base and improving the general health of the organization.

Volunteers Wanted

Join **United Support for Manna House (USMH)**. This group assists in fund-raising programs and activities to develop student outreach and funds for Manna House.

Inside...

Ms. D's Notes — a word from our Executive Director
Student and Teacher News — what's happening
Class Offerings in 2008 — sign up today!



Ms. D's Notes

It's been some time since I last wrote to you. So much has happened, too much to mention in our little newsletter. Manna House has been serving East Harlem and Greater New York for 41 years. It has been progressively difficult to "carry on" what with the cost of living rising and oil prices going from \$12,000 to \$35,000 annually.

We are seeking a source of additional funds and recommendations of additional foundations and corporations that will give grants for capital projects to cultural programs. We are also looking for volunteers to follow-up with outreach. These sources will be helpful in providing an increase in funds and student registration.

Our June 22nd recital was an artistic success and financially the income balanced our expenses, but we had hoped for a much needed surplus. Parents who sold their tickets are to be congratulated. We thank you. DVD's of the event are now available.

I am a member of the Coalition of Manhattan Schools of the Arts and its revealing how things are going with all of us even those whose budgets are close to and over a million dollars annually. Everyone is feeling the strain of the rise of expenses and we are all trying to find ways of surviving. Answers lie in cutting programs, raising tuition fees, developing more in-house revenue or attracting new funding sources.



Our Adult Guitar Ensemble in performance with instructor Andrei Carriere (left)

Here at Manna House, raising fees presents a dilemma. However, it may be our only alternative.

On my way back from a cultural meeting in the Village, I was moved as I sat on the crowded bus and observed hordes of children of all ethnicities happily relating to each other in fervent dialogue and laughter. I dropped something from my briefcase and a counselor struggled down to retrieve my property. Many seniors and persons in wheelchair were traveling at this time and everyone was so helpful in response to each others' needs.

The children exited the bus on 98th Street and Madison Avenue and six persons were left seated in the quiet vehicle. In a way that bus trip was an example of our mission at Manna House. We are a multiethnic family of people who care.

We have a wonderful program and professional teachers. With increased outreach, these programs could be filled to overflow-

ing and more children would be happily engaged in expressing the "creative spirit within".

On November 9th, we are planning a huge gala. Our friend Senator Charles Rangel has expressed his interest in helping us. We would like to establish a scholarship fund in the name of Governor Paterson who is a real inspiration. Herbie Hancock has also written his congratulations to our cultural organization that has survived for 41 years.

As a member or friend of the Manna House family, we need your help. Call me at 212-722-8223 and get involved in assisting with our gala on November 9th and in any way you can.

Peace and Love as we work together to make Manna House, our miracle on East 106th Street, grow stronger into our 42nd year.

Peace and Love to Everyone!

– Gloria DeNard
Executive Director & Founder



The Youth Guitar Ensemble (Hip Hop Rockers) in performance with instructor Andrei Carriere

Our Students and Teachers

Traveling the World With Music

Deborah Sitton Garvin, vocal student

Deborah had the unique opportunity to be employed helping residents of New Orleans who lost their homes to the fury of Katrina. She saw the destruction, and also observed the beauty of Clairborne Parish in the town of Homer. There was a colorful lake with butterflies, hawks, and deer, all colors of horses, cows, donkeys, and other creatures not made by man. Her duties kept her busy twelve hours per day, seven days a week, but she located areas in the Parish to place temporary vehicles and mobile homes for evacuated New Orleans citizens. Deborah's job is done now and she is back home in New York. You'll hear her beautiful voice in upcoming Manna House performances.

Brenda Fair Alexander, vocal student and administrator

Brenda sings with Arlene Smith, the original lead singer of the Chantels. Brenda has been singing background with this legendary Doo-Wop artist for over ten years and has performed in venues in Florida and Detroit, at Madison Square Garden, Symphony Hall, the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame, and casinos all over the East Coast. Brenda often performs solos at Manna House events.

Brandon Lewis, drum instructor

Drum instructor Brandon Lewis often runs in to his teaching responsibilities straight from the airport with luggage in tow, after performing around the world with various Jazz artists. Most recently, he appeared in Columbus, Ohio with Eric Person.

Tony Melone, piano instructor

Tony was married this summer to Leah Kaplan, a science teacher, and has moved to Brooklyn. He thanks his students and the Manna House faculty for their kind wishes and generosity, and he looks forward to continuing his work at Manna House on a somewhat reduced schedule.

Enrique Fernandez, woodwind instructor

Enrique returns to Manna House after tours performing with several Latin and Jazz groups in venues around the US, including festivals in California and Jazzmobile concerts here in NYC. He appeared with Ray Montilla and the Duke Ellington Orchestra, among others. Welcome back, Enrique.

Manna House Class Offerings for 2008

Group Dance Classes				
Course	Instructor	Ages	Day	Fee
Ballet	Corrine Giddings	3-17	Sat	\$60/month for all 4
Jazz/Modern	Corrine Giddings	3-17	Sat	
Tap	Tracy Mann	3-17	Sat	
African	Laurie Taylor	3-17	Sat	
Other Group Classes				
Drama	Lynette Braxton	7-17	Sat	\$60
Sight Singing	Andrei Carriere	15-adult	Wed	\$60
Adult Vocal Ens	Andrei Carriere	15-adult	Wed	\$60
Junior Jazz Ens	John Robinson	7-17	Thr	\$60
Youth Chorus	Gloria DeNard	7-17	Fri	\$60
Individual Music Lessons (half hour per wk)				
Piano	Tony Melone George Francoise Bertha Hope Nioko Ono	all	all	\$70*
Voice	Gloria DeNard	all	all	\$70*
Guitar	Ethan Mann Andrei Carriere	all	Tue Wed Sat	\$70*
Woodwind/Brass	Enrique Fernandez Guido Gonzalez	all	Tue	\$70*
Drums	Brandon Lewis	all	Mon	\$70*
Bass/Cello	John Robinson	all	Thr	\$70*

* Lessons are \$70/mo for children, \$90/mo for adults
Monthly fees cover 4-5 classes



Manna House Junior Chorus and Band Ensemble performing at our 40th Anniversary Celebration

Manna House Administrative Staff

- Gloria DeNard** Executive Director
- Brenda Fair** Administrator
- Carlos Prescod** Administrative Assistant
- Lovie Manuel** Video Technician
- Roy Villafane** Accountant