

NEW SCHOOL JAZZ NEWS

THE NEW SCHOOL FOR JAZZ AND CONTEMPORARY MUSIC

Fall 2010



Ali Jackson '00, member of the Jazz at Lincoln Center Orchestra and an advocate of Jazz music. Photo: Frédéric Thaly

Ali Jackson—So Much Art to Give

Ali Jackson '00 grew up in a musically talented family in Detroit and started drumming at a very early age. "I always played on a practice pad that I got when I was two or three years old and still own today." Ali's father was an educator and a great jazz bassist, and his mother, a classical pianist, taught her son how to play the piano at age five. By age eight, Ali was performing professionally, and as a teenager, Ali came to New York City where his uncle, jazz drummer Oliver "Bops"

Jackson Jr., took him on gigs as a roadie. The experience gave him a taste of the city's jazz scene.

Ali's first introduction to New School Jazz was as a freshman in high school when he played drums during his cousin's audition. New School Jazz faculty were impressed with Ali's musical ability and stayed in touch with him. Ali was attracted to the school's intimate learning environment and the opportunity to

study with teachers who were great jazz musicians. "I attended at a time when the concept of becoming a professional musician while earning a degree didn't coincide," Ali says. "New School Jazz helped to bridge that gap." Ali also credits the school for his growth as an artist. "When you're around professionals and jazz legends, it allows you to refine your talent and shape it into something that is quite palpable. In my particular case, I had the

Continues on page 3...

