



# North Cross School

## **For Immediate Release**

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### **NCS Middle School Student Receives National Recognition**

*Albert Newberry '17 receives 2013 Herb Alpert Young Jazz Composer Award*

**ROANOKE, VA (March 14, 2013)** - For Albert Newberry '17, composing music is not only a hobby, but also a passion. His hard work and dedication paid off on January 28, 2013 when the American Society of Composers, Authors and Publishers (ASCAP) announced that Newberry was one of the winners of the 2013 Herb Alpert Young Jazz Composer Award.

This prestigious award, established by The ASCAP Foundation in 2002, is named for the great trumpeter and ASCAP member, Herb Alpert. It was created to encourage gifted jazz composers under the age of 30 and each recipient is selected through a juried national competition and receives a cash prize. Given to 30 people worldwide, only six recipients are between the ages of 10 and 18. One of the six is North Cross School eighth grader, Albert Newberry, age 13.

Newberry's love of music began at age eight when his mother signed him up to begin piano lessons. After just two years, Albert began composing his own music. In addition to taking music classes at North Cross School, he also studies classical piano at Renaissance Music Academy in Blacksburg with his beloved teacher and mentor Teresa Ehrlich. Additionally, Albert takes jazz lessons with Cyrus Pace at The Jefferson Center and studies music theory with Hollins Professor Barbara Mackin. Not only does Albert play the piano, but also the xylophone, chimes, and bells. Albert won this award on a piano piece he composed called "Tritone Blues".

NCS Fine Arts Department Chair and Albert's music teacher, Jimmie Donnini, said, "Albert is a joy to teach and to know. His rhythmic skills, as with so many other aspects of his playing, are very mature. Albert plays the piano and mallets with feeling as well as precision. I am extremely proud of Albert for being one of six young musicians under the age of eighteen to win the Herb Alpert Jazz Competition, and I believe this is only the beginning of many awards to come."

Paul Williams, the ASCAP Foundation's President and Chairman of the Board, said in a press release, "The talented young music creators we recognize through this program represent the future of jazz composition. We congratulate the recipients and extend thanks to the dedicated panel of ASCAP composers who selected the honorees. We are honored to partner with the Herb Alpert Foundation in this significant endeavor."

### **About North Cross School**

North Cross School is a college-preparatory day school grounded in a strong liberal arts and science curriculum combined with exceptional co-curricular programs. The academic program, from junior kindergarten through twelfth grade, prepares students to become responsible, successful citizens by encouraging them to explore their interests and develop their talents. The School is located at 4254 Colonial Avenue, Roanoke, VA, 24018.

### **About Herb Alpert**

Herb Alpert was born in Los Angeles and grew up in a house filled with music. He began his philanthropy in 1982, and with his wife, singer Lani Hall, oversees the Herb Alpert Foundation's commitment to funding the arts and education programs, as well as, programs that promote compassion and well-being. The Foundation's significant commitments include the 2007 formation of the UCLA Herb Alpert School of Music, devoted to the performance and study of music in all of its global diversity, as well as the Herb Alpert School of Music at CalArts, the Herb Alpert Scholarships for Emerging Young Artists, and the PS Arts Lawndale Elementary School District Initiative, which has brought arts education to more than four thousand children annually for the past seven years.

**The Herb Alpert Foundation**, a non-profit, private foundation established in the early 1980's, makes significant annual contributions to a range of programs in the fields of Arts, Arts Education and Compassion and Well Being. Its funding is directed toward projects in which Herb and Lani Alpert and Foundation President Rona Sebastian play an active role. [The Foundation does not accept unsolicited proposals.]

### **The ASCAP Foundation**

Founded in 1975, The ASCAP Foundation is a charitable organization dedicated to supporting American music creators and encouraging their development through music education and talent development programs. Included in these are songwriting workshops, grants, scholarships, awards, recognition and community outreach programs, and public service projects for senior composers and lyricists. The ASCAP Foundation is supported by contributions from ASCAP members and from music lovers throughout the United States. [www.ascapfoundation.org](http://www.ascapfoundation.org)

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