



North  
Cross  
School

### **World Music Series Comes to North Cross School**

*Students work with nationally renowned jazz musician and composer,  
Bradley Sowash, to prepare for their annual holiday performance*

December 9, 2014 (ROANOKE, VA) – Nationally renowned jazz musician and composer, Bradley Sowash, is coming to Roanoke to work with North Cross students the week of December 15, to help them prepare for their annual holiday performance. Bradley Sowash is a composer, creative pianist, multi-instrumentalist, recording artist, author, and educator. He has been performing and composing for over thirty years and is best known for his appearances on seven seasons of the PBS-TV series, *The Piano Guy*; being the co-founder of 88 Creative Keys improvisations camps for piano students and teachers; and his best-selling jazz piano method, “That’s Jazz,” published by Kjos Music.

Mr. Sowash has arranged six selections for North Cross lower school students, in grades 1-3, to perform in their holiday program on Friday, December 19. “The focus will be on African-American Christmas spirituals as a method to gain a parallel understanding of the history and culture which produced these heritage selections and their value as American music treasures,” says Mr. Sowash.

In November, the students began studying the art of jazz and spirituals with their music teacher, Richard Rudolph. “This unique hands-on experience allows students to be part of live music making and learn the process of music from inception to a final performance. It also gives them an opportunity to learn about the job of a composer and arranger from a nationally recognized individual,” said Mr. Rudolph.

Mr. Sowash will arrive on campus on Wednesday, December 17 to practice with the students. In addition, as part of the Horace G. Fralin Program for Global Studies at North Cross School, Mr. Sowash will conduct a lecture and demo workshop on Thursday, December 18, for students in grades 4-12.

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## **About Bradley Sowash**

- *Recording artist of nine albums*
- *Teaches master classes nationwide*
- *Owner of a private piano studio specializing in improvisation*
- *Author of America's top-selling, nine-book piano method, That's Jazz*
- *Pop/Jazz Chairperson for Music Teachers National Association*
- *Co-Founder of 88 Creative Keys Camp for improvising pianists*
- *Broadcast credits include seven seasons on the PBS-TV series, "The Piano Guy"*
- *Columnist for Clavier Companion, Downbeat, American Music Teacher among others*
- *Faculty: Suzuki Music Columbus, Chamber Music Connection, and The Jazz Academy*
- *Winner of a special citation from the American Prize in Composition for "his unique skill in combining classical techniques with popular idioms"*

*Bradley Sowash is a composer, creative pianist, multi-instrumentalist, recording artist, author, and educator specializing in improvisation. He has performed in every imaginable setting from living rooms, churches and jazz clubs to major concert venues both here and abroad for over thirty years. His broadcast credits include seven seasons of appearances on the PBS-TV series, The Piano Guy, and National Public Radio has aired selections from his nine CDs. He teaches master classes nationwide, serves as Pop/Jazz chairperson for the Music Teachers National Association and teaches at the 88 Creative Keys Camp with co-founder Leila Viss. The Neil A. Kjos Music Company publishes his popular That's Jazz piano method and Augsburg Fortress Press has published several volumes of his hymn arrangements. He also writes a column about improvisation for Clavier Companion and self-publishes works for ballet, big band, choir, film, orchestra, solo piano and string quartet. For more information please visit <http://bradleysowash.com/>.*

## **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 early childhood 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. For more information, visit [www.northcross.org](http://www.northcross.org).*

