

# Victor Haskins & "Speaking of Jazz"



For Booking:  
Victor Haskins  
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## What is "Speaking of Jazz"?

The mission of "Speaking of Jazz" is first and foremost to introduce children to the power and relevance of jazz music. Through performances and contextual explanations, the program seeks to illustrate that "jazz" is less of a musical genre and more of a description of how people communicate with music. Listening, improvisation, and freedom of expression are the main components which make jazz special and vital, though these concepts can be applied to other areas of life, too. Components of the presentation include directed listening, interactive performances (where students sing along with and be a part of the tunes played at certain times), as well as music specifically written to be relatable to young students.

## What is Victor Haskins & SKEIN?

Victor Haskins & SKEIN performs music that inspires the human spirit. As the band's name suggests, the members of Victor Haskins & SKEIN weave together improvisational threads of emotional melodies and infectious rhythms. The result: dynamic tapestries of uplifting spiritual stories rendered in sound, song, and groove. Scintillating, synthesized tones meld with rumbling drums and sizzling cymbals as dark, smoky cornet notes dance in the air atop a deep, lithe bass. Victor Haskins & SKEIN's ethereal and electrifying performance of all-original music takes the audience to another dimension; the journey is as beautiful as the destination.

## What do presenters say?

"Mr. Haskins and his fellow musicians brought jazz alive for my students through quality performance and stimulating questions. I have never seen my students so attentive for an entire hour!"

-Graciela Briceno

Music Teacher, Garrison Elementary School, Washington, D.C.

"They gave insightful discussions, encouraged audience participation and had fun with their topics and pieces that kept the students' interests while still maintaining the high standard of performance expectations and learning atmosphere.

"...I highly recommend administrators, teachers and schools to put forth the effort in having these musicians come to them and share some of the musical knowledge that they are willing to give."

-Michael Utell

Band Director, Woodburn School for the Fine and Communicative Arts, Falls Church, VA

## Online Media (clickable links):

[Speaking of Jazz online](#)

## Selected Performance History:

Victor Haskins & SKEIN has been featured at the Henrico Jazz Festival, Richmond Jazz Festival, Lake Anna Jazz Festival, Jazz on the Bluff, Kennedy Center REACH Opening Festival, Williamsburg Regional Library Dewey Decibel Series, and the Virginia Museum of Fine Arts. Victor Haskins & SKEIN has also appeared at a number of schools and educational institutions to perform and give educational presentations, including Virginia Commonwealth University, University of Richmond, and William & Mary. Additionally, Victor Haskins & SKEIN acted as the In-School Jazz Ensemble for the Kennedy Center's National Symphony Orchestra Education Department from 2014-2020, performing Victor's presentation, "Speaking of Jazz", for countless grade schools in the Washington metropolitan area to introduce children to the power of Black music.

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