First-Gen HBCU Grad, Carnegie Hall Performer, & White House Honoree Nominated for "Most Inspiring Pianist of the Year"



culture, Elijah Stevens, a celebrated pianist and composer, has been nominated for the prestigious "Most Inspiring Pianist of the Year" award by the Pianote Awards which has millions of followers worldwide. Overcoming homelessness, racial discrimination, and financial hardship, Elijah Stevens has risen to international acclaim through resilience, faith, and a passion for uplifting underrepresented voices in classical music.

A native of the Bahamas and a first-generation HBCU graduate from Bethune-Cookman University, Elijah Stevens embodies the dreams of generations. Despite a challenging childhood, including a pivotal moment when his church prayed for guidance on which child to send to music lessons, God's hand was seen in their journey. "Elijah was chosen, and from that first lesson, a love for music and a gift was discovered," shared a family member. Supported by the church's faith and financial sacrifices, Stevens has gone on to perform at Carnegie Hall, earn an Artist Diploma from the renowned Royal Conservatory of Music, win numerous international competitions, and achieve recognition as a White House All-Star—a title reserved for the best and brightest in the United States.

As a Black classical musician and composer, Elijah is a rarity in a field where only 1.8% of performers are Black. Through performances of works by composers like Florence Price, Samuel Coleridge-Taylor, and Nathaniel Dett, Stevens amplifies the voices of underrepresented artists and inspires a new generation of musicians. Reflecting on their nomination, Elijah says, "This is more than a personal milestone. It's a testament to the power of God, perseverance, and the importance of representation. It's a win for the culture."

This nomination is not just about music—it's about legacy. As Dr. Myles Munroe once said, "The greatest tragedy in life is not death, but a life without purpose." For Elijah, this recognition highlights the importance of faith, family, and culture in overcoming adversity and achieving greatness. This award will no doubt open international doors and pave the way for those coming behind Mr. Stevens as it already has for many others.

How to Support and Vote

Voting is from January 13, 2025, to January 19, 202,5 and fans are encouraged to visit www.pianote.com/vote to cast their vote. The link will be live on January 13th and the awards will be broadcast on February 20, 2025. Join the movement by sharing the nomination on social media and spreading the word within your community.

Contact Information

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Follow Elijah Stevens on social media:

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Image and Additional Media

Together, let's celebrate the intersection of faith, resilience, and cultural excellence as Elijah Stevens continues to make history in the world of classical music.

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