

The Live Poets are a Spoken Word Poetry and Jazz Collective. lead by Hartford Jazz Society Board Member, and Arts ambassador Hydro 8sixty. Born Hiram Cardona Jr. Hydro is a Hartford Native . A Hip Hop Artists who also organizes and hosts Hip Hop Events in the community Hydro also is a catalyst for music, art, and culture in the Greater Hartford community.

Lawrence V. White (bassist) is a connoisseur & lover of all music. It doesn't matter the genre--he has an appreciation for them all. His inspiration came early in life playing in a small church. He started playing drums at 5 years old. Throughout his adolescence, he learned to play over 10 instruments. In high school he finally figured out what he was hearing all along--the bass guitar. Connecting with the right instrument ignited the passion that was already there to want to perform and record.

He's been able to play and/or record with artists such as: Kurt Carr, Ricky Dillard, Troy Oliver, Tony Dofat, Sonix the Mad Scientist, Emmany, Ru Williams, Klokwize & Bap Pack, DMC, Sugar Blue, George Colon, Sandoval Band, James Chappell III, Marissa Lavox, Nelson Garcia, Corey Glover, Scott Waters, Janae Smith, Jessica Reese, The Ray of Hope Project, David Davis, David Allan Rivera, Ashlee Jones, and many more. He's currently on a nationwide tour with instrumentalist, John Violinist.

His projects and collaborations are available on all digital music outlets including over 100 songs and counting.

T'Challa Williams

Board member of GHAC, Executive Co-
Founder of Hartford's L.I.T., Teaching Artist &
Published Author

Abioseh is a poet, hip-hop mc, producer, and

engineer who uses his work in music and poetry to draw attention to various issues culturally, spiritually, politically, and socially, addressing a wide range of issues encompassing human rights, animal rights, and environmental sustainability. He is a published author and has performed in multiple venues across the country including Yale University, where he also taught a residency program on hip hop culture, UC Berkley, the Connecticut State Capitol, and was also a 6 year member of the Connecticut poetry slam team, Verbal Slap.

Nadia Sims

Poet Laureate of Manchester. Princeton grad. Author of "A Soft Place to Land", "We Know the Dark" and "Apostle, Interrupted"

Damian Curtis is a highly accomplished pianist from a family of musicians who began playing at age four. A prominent figure in the

Connecticut music scene for over two decades, he studied at the Academy of Performing Arts, Artist Collectives, and Guakia School, and received a full scholarship to the University of Hartford (Hartt School of Music). Curtis, known for his versatility in jazz, Latin jazz/salsa, and hip-hop, has performed with notable artists such as Giovanni Hilgald, Jackie McLean, and has done production with Tragedy Khadafi and KRS ONE. Beyond performing, he is also a dedicated producer and educator, mentoring young artists.

L. Mixashawn Rozie Wave Artist,
Saxophonist, Maritime practitioner and
educator who performs and composes in
Indigenous artforms from traditional to
contemporary including the Native American
artform J A Z Z

Khaiim The Rapoet is the first Hip-Hop Troubadour of an American City, instated by the Mayor's Office and City Council of CT's Capital. He found a way out of the LES, NYC projects by choosing a scholarship over a major label offer from Def Jam. Since then, he's performed worldwide, become a State Poetry Slam Finalist, and seen his positive use of Hip-Hop praised on platforms including NPR, Netflix, CPTV, the NY Times, the International Hip-Hop Festival, President Obama & Biden's Champions of Change, and more.

He has continued to lecture, mentor, study and teach at institutions including Trinity College, Yale University and others, about the benefits of Hip-Hop Culture from elementary school workshops all the way up to full college courses.

As a live performer, fans have seen him alongside Alice Walker, the Last Poets, KRS-ONE, Talib Kweli, Common, Ludacris, Joyner Lucas, and more. As a recording artist, he summited the Top 40 Indie Hip-Hop Charts with Mez Davis (of J Cole's Dreamville), reaching the top 2 and 3 spots with their underground classic album "Manhattan Night". The Rapoet currently has 4 songs in Spotify's Top 5% Most Played category.

Alvin Benjamin Carter, Jr. is a husband, father and minister of The Gospel and is a mainstay in the Greater Hartford arts community. Known as "Babafemi" to his friends, his involvement in the community is multifaceted. He works as an educator, organizer, performer, consultant, adviser and motivator. He is an original "Artists Collective Baby", having his artistic beginnings in drums, dance and acting at The Artists Collective. He later taught drums at "The

Collective,” as did his father, Alvin Carter, Sr. His diverse music experience includes but is not limited to jazz, R&B, blues, Latin jazz, gospel and world beat. As a performer he has been the drummer with The Afro-Semitic Experience, The Kenny Hamber Show, The Crystal Blue Project, Don DePalma and Friends, Tony Harrington and Touch, Charmagne, People of Goodwill, La Orquesta Espada, Edwin West and many, many others. He currently leads LEGACY: The Keepers of Tradition and The Alvin Carter Project. He has also been a lead drummer for Sankofa Kuumba Cultural Arts Consortium where he plays west Afrikan and afro-caribbean drums.

John Manselle-Young otherwise known as **Tang Sauce** is an American hip-hop recording artist, songwriter, dancer, instrumentalist, and actor. Tang Sauce is an artistic experience of sound, words,

movements and thoughts.

