

# TIMELESS GIFTS

Youth Program for the Performing Arts  
A 501 (C) (3) Organization

**Our Mission:** Positively impacting the lives of young performers by imparting and encouraging the perpetuation of character, confidence and professional etiquette, in order to insure the integrity of our musical and artistic communities, while providing avenues for artistic growth, greater opportunities and exposure.



*"Hello, my name is Kenari Allison. I am 11 years old and I go to Dixon Elementary School (in Chicago's Chatham neighborhood). I play drums and congas, and I'm learning the trumpet. I have been with Timeless Gifts for 3 years. I've had mentors like Ernie Adams, Tony Carpenter and Ben Johnson, who are world known. I plan to travel the world playing music too. We have 2 big shows every year, but my favorite is the Christmas Show! I have met some very important people, performed all over Chicago, and even received an award because of Timeless Gifts! I really love music and I enjoy the time with my Instructors and the other protégés. Timeless Gifts is giving us the opportunity of a lifetime. I can't wait for the Timeless Gifts Performing Arts Center that Ms. Collaso is always talking about!"*

**Kenari wrote that in 2011. He is now 16 years old and a Junior at Simeon High School!**

**Timeless Gifts Youth Program for the Performing Arts** is a 501c3 organization created to give aspiring young performing artists like Kenari the opportunity to receive coaching and instruction in their chosen discipline(s) from world-class and professional performing artists and technical experts. Youth from all over the Chicagoland area audition for our 7-week summer program, which culminates in a premier performance before an audience of hundreds.

Founder, Executive and Artistic Director Joan Collaso, an accomplished Emmy Award winning vocalist and producer who has performed in many parts of the world, envisions that through **Timeless Gifts**, *"we are helping to fill the void for aspiring young performers who no longer have the outlet of performing arts in their schools, but just as important, we are creating a historical legacy in Chicago by contributing to the next generations of world-class performers and arts technicians."*

In just seven years, through the efforts of our instructors, Board of Directors and volunteers, **TG** has:

1. Worked with nearly 250 young people between the ages of 8 and 21
2. Sponsored seven, Performing Arts summer programs (2011 - 2016) that have culminated with our amazing **End of Summer Concerts and musical productions!**
3. Produced seven Christmas Concerts, at Chicago's DuSable Museum, Kennedy King College and The Kroc Center, featuring our **TG** protégés performing duets with their instructors along with feature performances from such greats artists as Willie Pickens, Maggie Brown, Walt Whitman and the Soul Children of Chicago. We've honored Oscar Brown, Jr and Willie Pickens (2011), Jerry Butler (2012), Walt Whitman (2013), Herald Johnson (2014), Timeless Gifts co-founder, Juanita Passmore (2015), Diane Ellis, Patrick Woodtor and Charlie Thomas (2016)
4. Provided opportunities for our protégés to perform: on TV (Channel 7 news), Rainbow PUSH, *South Shore Jazz Fest, Lake Meadows Art Fair, Children's Brittle Bone Foundation*, Chicago State University, and numerous private events. We've opened for Chante Moore and performed before Chaka Khan, performed in (rapper) Common's *AHHH! Festival*, One of our protégés had the privilege to perform on stage with Kirk Whalum, and another appeared in a 2016 PBS Special, an *Evening with Valerie Jarrett* (The History Makers), with First Lady, Michelle Obama in the audience! And in April 2017 NBC 5 News recognized Timeless Gifts as an Organization "Making a Difference" as featured on their News broadcast! **The possibilities are endless!!**

**Our hope is that 2018 will be our biggest and best year ever! We can accomplish so much more with your help! When you open your heart and support this program, you are endorsing the dreams of young people just like Kenari. They all want the opportunity to excel and achieve. You can make their dreams come true. Send your tax-deductible donation to Timeless Gifts, P. O. Box 7279, Chicago, IL 60680. To donate online go to: [www.timelessgifts.org](http://www.timelessgifts.org) Thank you in advance!**