



Judith Hill and Dennis Hamm join American Idol's Amy Adams for Garden Pathways Singing Camp

08-10-09 BACKGROUNDER

Garden Pathways Singing Camp – Master Class

WHO: Judith Hill, Dennis Hamm, and American Idol's Amy Adams

WHAT: Garden Pathways Singing Camp – Judith Hill and Dennis Hamm join Amy Adams for a master class at Garden Pathways Singing Camp to **mentor youth through the arts.**

WHERE: American Sound Recording Studio 2231 R Street in Bakersfield, CA

WHEN: Master Class: August 14; 11:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.
Showcase of Youth Participants: August 14; 4:00-6:15 p.m.



Judith Hill, “Heal the World” lead singer at the Jackson Memorial, and Southern Californian pianist **Dennis Hamm** join American Idol's **Amy Adams** at **Garden Pathways Singing Camp**. The guest artists will share their experiences in the music industry and will perform during a master class on August 14 for youth participants at the camp. Youth will perform with Adams in a showcase on August 14. Garden Pathways Singing Camp is the inaugural event for an emerging **community-wide initiative to provide mentoring through the arts**. The mentoring initiative combines arts instruction with the fostering of life skills and the broadening of healthy perspectives of options and opportunities for young people.

For more information, [see attached 7/15/09 backgrounder](#) that was sent previously to media.

Judith Hill



Judith Hill, vocalist from Pasadena, CA, sang lead in “Heal the World” at the Michael Jackson Memorial. www.youtube.com/watch?v=ccjhuk-QCuw
Her acclaimed performance initially generated many questions as to the identity of the “mystery singer.” Hill had been slated to be one of the back-up singers for Jackson's This Is It! concerts at London's O2 Arena.

Hill's website www.judithhillmusic.com provides the following bio:

“What word best describes Judith Hill's music? Innovation. She pushes the envelope with a melting pot of so many styles, and yet achieves her own signature sound that is consistent from track to track. With a charcoal, soulful voice and amazing range and versatility, she paints a vivid picture of her life. Her palette of colors and unique tones are so extensive, you may discover something new during every listen. In her vocal you may hear the rawness of Janis Joplin, the

tenderness of Corine Bailey Rae, or the powerful conviction of Aretha Franklin. Her production is a blend of R&B/hip hop beats fused with a Led Zeppelin rock edge and peppered with impressionistic harmonies. But what is more amazing is that none of these elements are thrown together randomly. They are all integral parts of her story.

Judith was born in Los Angeles and raised in a family of musicians. Her mother is an immigrant from Japan who met her father in a funk band in the 1970s. She laughs about her bi-racial experience, "I was a skinny mixed kid with a lot of hair that I didn't know what to do with (and still don't know what to do with it). And my mom could not help me with it!" She lived in a Christian home and embraced Jesus Christ at an early age. She comments, "I had a pretty good life in my childhood. Me and God were friends since the beginning. That helped a lot. But, it didn't save me from walking a path of pain and asking the deep questions of life. I was a philosopher as a kid, and in school you could find me in the library." She admits that she never "fit in." Depending on the social circle, she was labeled "too quiet," "too loud," "too black," "too asian," or too something. Judith expresses, "I was a traveler, kind of a drifter. But, looking back I see how all of those experiences, friends, and cultures made me who I am today."

Dennis Hamm

Southern Californian pianist Dennis Hamm returns to Bakersfield to inspire and share his musical experiences with the youth of his hometown. Crosby Loggins describes Hamm, "Dennis is a monster. The greatest jazz keyboardist I've ever met far and away."



Posted on Hamm's website www.dennishamm.com is the following bio:

"Pianist, composer, teacher, Dennis Hamm began playing professionally at age 18 and has since worked with a diverse mix of artists. The albums Hamm appears on are a testament to his versatility. In the last three years Hamm was featured on albums as varied as MTV's *Rock the Cradle* winner **Crosby Loggins'** (son of **Kenny Loggins**) Indy Pop/Rock album "*We All Go Home*", the Prog-Rock Jazz Fusion of guitarist **Greg Howe's** "*Sound Proof*", in support of which Hamm toured Europe in late 2008, **Katiss Buckingham's** genre bending mix of hip-hop and modern jazz on "*Lyrical Worker*", and an upcoming modern country release by American Idol finalist **Amy Adams**, which Hamm also produced.

Other artists he has performed or recorded with are **John Densmore (The Doors)**, **Buck Owens' "Buckaroos"**, **Pete Escovedo**, **Will Kennedy & Jimmy Haslip (The Yellowjackets)**, **Jojo Mayer**, **Ronald Bruner Jr.**, **Cliff Almond**, **Justo Almarino**, **Tony Royster Jr.**, **Melvin Davis**, **Janek Gwizdala**, **Jimmy Branly**, **Carlitos del Puerto**, **Sandro Albert**, **Monty Byrom**, **The Smokin' Armadillos**, and his own original projects including funk/jazz group **Mother Funk Conspiracy** featuring L.A. saxophonist **Zane Musa**."

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