

## SHORT BIO FOR PHAREZ WHITTED

There are many moments that can define a man's life and for Pharez Whitted, this is one of them. He's taken on the new role as Chicago's Youth Symphony Orchestra (CYSO) Jazz Director and Howard Reich at the Chicago Tribune described Pharez perfectly - "Few Chicago musician-educators are more qualified than Whitted to build the new band, for he commands a richly deserved reputation as a trumpet virtuoso, seasoned educator and irrepressible champion of the music."

Whitted is humble with his legacy and his deep roots in music go as far back as the 1930's in Indianapolis where the Hampton Family Band first began performing. His mother Virtue, his uncle Slide Hampton and the other 10 siblings (12 in total) laid the foundation with their self-educated and courageous father, Clarke "Deacon" Hampton at the helm. With that level of determination and talent, Whitted was destined to inherit the gift of music.

He began his career in 1982 not long after earning his Master's Degree at Indiana University Jacobs School of Music. He's been on staff at Chicago State University, The Ohio State University and Wabash College. He recorded his first self-entitled album, 'Pharez Whitted' with Motown in 1994 and continued recording solo albums ever since. He's performed with Nancy Wilson, Freddie Hubbard, Slide Hampton, John Mellencamp, Chaka Khan, Ahmad Jamal, George Duke, Kirk Whalum, Elvin Jones, Branford Marsalis and Meshell Ndegeocello to name a few. He is currently a clinician Jazz at Lincoln Center youth outreach program, he's a staple at Rivinia's Jazz Scholar program in Chicago and his newest role at CYSO to help find its identity and sound while bringing new faces to the young jazz scene of Chicago.