Artist Bio

**Dr. Jessie L. Primer, III is a distinguished educator, saxophonist, and bandleader committed to advancing music education. With a Ph.D. in Music Education from the University of Mississippi, a Master's in Music Education from Jackson State University, and a Bachelor’s in Music from Alcorn State University, Dr. Primer has dedicated over two decades to teaching and mentoring students. He currently serves as the Chairman of the Music Department and Associate Professor of Music at Tougaloo College, where he has been instrumental in shaping the curriculum and fostering a passion for music among his students.**

**Throughout his career, Dr. Primer has been deeply involved in the academic community, contributing to numerous workshops and conferences. His notable publications, including his research on faculty perception of leadership styles and their impact on productivity, reflect his commitment to improving educational practices. He has shared his expertise at prestigious events such as the Hawaii International Conference and various New York University Faculty Network workshops, addressing topics ranging from jazz history to digital humanities.**

**Dr. Primer's dedication extends beyond the classroom through his involvement in securing significant grants and fellowships to support music education programs. He has successfully obtained funding from the United States Department of Education and the Entergy Corporation for initiatives like the Summer Music & Arts Camp, ensuring that students have access to enriching musical experiences.**

**He is an active member of several professional organizations, including the Jazz Educators of Mississippi, the Music Education National Conference, Broadcast Music Incorporated (BMI), Entertainment Director of Yuric Records, and the Board of Trustees for Jackson State University Public Radio Station.**

**Dr. Primer has received numerous honors and awards, including a Certificate of Appreciation from the United States Department of Defense, the Jackson Musical Award, a Resolution from the City Council of Jackson, MS, and the Madison County Chamber of Commerce. He also received the Mississippi Jazz Foundation Leadership Award and the Tougaloo College Humanities Teacher of the Year Award. Dr. Primer has also received credits on numerous albums and recordings.**

**Dr. Primer continues to influence the music education landscape. As an outstanding saxophonist, he has performed with renowned groups such as The Bluz Boys, B.B. King, Benjamin Wright, Cassandra Wilson, Eddie Harris, Brandy, Paul Overstreet, Sinbad, Calvin Richardson, and the Williams Brothers. He also leads a Jazz Quartet, a Jazz Quintet, Just Right, a Big Band, and the Jessie Primer Rhythm and Blues Band. Dr. Primer toured Europe and Yugoslavia for the U.S. troops stationed in the former Republic of Yugoslavia. During his several tours of Europe, he has performed as a guest soloist with the military band in London, England. Dr. Primer has also performed solo classical and jazz recitals at Alcorn State University, University of Mississippi, Jackson State University, Tougaloo College, and several high schools.**

**Dr. Primer's comprehensive skills, ranging from success in music programs to his leadership roles, underscore his commitment to excellence and innovation in music education.**