

# Brooklyn Daily Eagle

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## Brooklyn College Student Wins John Lennon Songwriting Award

MIDWOOD — Brooklyn College student Daniel Blake has been awarded Grand Prize for Jazz in the John Lennon Songwriting Contest (Session I), an international competition open to amateur and professional songwriters, it was announced today by college officials.

Blake, a saxophonist and master's student in composition and adjunct lecturer at The Conservatory of Music at Brooklyn College, was judged by leaders in the music industry including D12, Al Jarreau, Bob Weir, Matt Pinfield, Robin Gibb of the Bee Gees, Lyfe Jennings, Jesse Harris, Teairra Mari, The Black Eyed Peas, The Bacon Brothers, Ken Komisar, and Jake Hill.

As Grand Prize winner in the jazz category, Mr. Blake was awarded \$5,000 in music equipment and a chance for an EMI publishing contract. Blake, whose original winning composition, "The Morning Shuffle," will compete against Session II winners in spring 2007, when the general public will be able to vote for Mr. Blake's song at [www.jlsc.com](http://www.jlsc.com).

"Brooklyn College is very proud to call Dan one of its own — as both a student and faculty," said Brooklyn College President Christoph M. Kimmich. "Our good wishes are with him as he enters the second phase of this prestigious international competition."

A versatile saxophonist, composer, and educator, Blake has also recently been awarded the American Society of Composers, Authors and Publishers' Young Jazz Composer's Award for his release "The Party Suite."

This new work has been called "An utterance for these days," by *Jazzreview*, and "Joyous, upbeat, and ebullient," by *Cadencemagazine*.

Blake, who serves on the faculty at The Conservatory of Music at Brooklyn College, is also making a name for himself as a bandleader, with regular performances in Brooklyn, Manhat-



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Photo courtesy of Brooklyn College

tan, and Boston.

Recently, Blake performed at The Blue Note, Peru's National Jazz Festival, Sweet Rhythm (NYC), Ryles Jazz Club (Cambridge, MA), and at Jazz Aspen/Snowmass summer festival.

*Founded in 1930, Brooklyn College is one of the eleven senior colleges of the City University of New York. The College ranks in the top ten nationally in Princeton Review's 2006 guidebook, America's Best Value Colleges. The four-year liberal arts college is located on a twenty-six-acre campus in the most dynamic New York City borough.*

*The Princeton Review's 2003 edition of The Best 345 Colleges named Brooklyn College the "Most Beautiful Campus" for its Georgian-style buildings and landscaped Quadrangle. The College enrolls 15,000 undergraduate and graduate students who are representative of the ethnic and cultural diversity of Brooklyn and New York City.*