



**Mississippi  
Arts+  
Entertainment  
Experience** SM

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### **Mississippi Students Participate in Choral Residency with GRAMMY Nominee and *American Idol* Winner Jamal Roberts**

MERIDIAN, Miss. (March 17, 2026) – Mississippi students were given a special opportunity to participate in a choral residency with GRAMMY-nominated singer and Season 23 *American Idol* winner Jamal Roberts from March 9-12, in partnership with the Mississippi Arts + Entertainment Experience (The MAX).

Roberts, a Meridian native who first began performing at The MAX when he was a young adult, worked directly with the choir of over 100 students in grades 5-12 during their spring break in preparation for a public performance on Thursday, March 12.

“When we approached Jamal about doing something at The MAX for students during spring break, he immediately expressed a desire to put his choir back together,” said Penny Kemp, President/CEO of The MAX. “We couldn’t be more excited to provide students this opportunity to work with a nationally recognized, professionally touring artist. We also couldn’t be more impressed with Jamal’s commitment to give back to his community.”

“At first, a lot of people didn’t believe it,” said choir member Londyn Campbell. “Most artists don’t give back to their community or come back to their community... When I heard I had a chance to come, I was amazed.”

After four days of hands-on mentorship by Roberts, who recently completed a national tour alongside fellow Mississippians Brandy and Monica, Jamal Roberts’ Soul Sound Choir took the stage in the Citizens National Bank Courtyard outside The MAX. Among the songs performed to the packed crowd were two of Roberts’ own, “Liar” and “Mississippi.”

“From day one, Jamal was pouring into the kids, and the kids received so much,” said program volunteer Dr. Barbara Sanders. “They were changed.”

As students return to the classroom, many said they are excited to tell friends about their memorable spring break, as well as encourage them to sign up should the opportunity come again. “It was really fun,” raved choir member Avory Wade. “I had the best experience.”

### **About The MAX:**

The Mississippi Arts + Entertainment Experience (The MAX) is an arts and cultural center in the heart of downtown Meridian that celebrates Mississippi’s creative legacy through interactive exhibits, workshops, and live performances. The multipurpose facility contains a two-story Hall of Fame celebrating the state’s groundbreaking artists like Walter Anderson, William Faulkner, Morgan Freeman, Jim Henson, B.B. King, Elvis Presley, and Leontyne Price to name a few, along with over 20,000 square feet of interactive exhibits, art studios, a recording studio, and performance spaces. Every visit to The MAX is a unique experience that leaves visitors feeling inspired and in awe of Mississippi’s global impact on music, literature, art, and entertainment. Visit [www.msarts.org](http://www.msarts.org) to learn more.

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