

## A Night of Notes & Legacies: Celebrating MOJO 2026 Scholarship Winners!

The Mystic Order of the Jazz Obsessed (MOJO) is proud to partner with Coastal Alabama Community College for a very special **Jazz Jambalaya**. We're coming together to honor the future of jazz while paying tribute to the Local Icons on whose shoulders we stand.

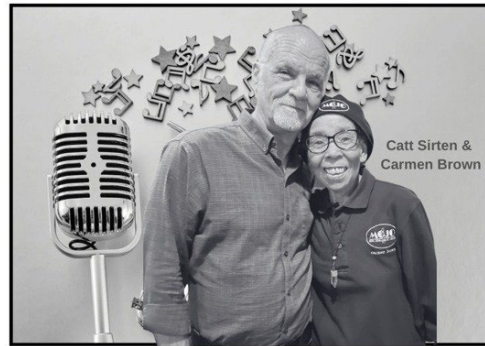
We are thrilled to announce the 2026 scholarship recipients, who are carrying forward the incredible legacies of two local icons:

- **Zane C. Teel** – 2026 Carmen Brown Scholarship Winner (*Trombone & Guitar*)
- **Owen Pierson** – 2026 Catt Sirten Scholarship Winner (*Bass*)

### Honoring Our Cultural Pillars

These scholarships were created to memorialize the profound contributions **Carmen Brown and Catt Sirten** made to the cultural heartbeat of the Azalea City.

Starting in the 1980s, Carmen Brown and Catt Sirten were pillars in Mobile's media and cultural temple. Brown's Alabama Broadcasters Hall of Fame profile includes on-air and management positions at WBLX FM, WKRK FM, WKRK TV5, WHIL FM and WDLT FM where she hosted "Smooth Jazz Sundays." She was a founding member of MOJO and lent her notable cachet to its efforts.



Her decades as a jazz DJ provided a community connection as she played behind the scene roles for numerous cultural outfits. Brown was a proponent of education and seeding the next generation of jazz fans and artists. She conceived of MOJO's weekend children's education project, a jazz petting zoo featuring the Excelsior Band. Brown discovered a Dave Brubeck exhibit on loan from the West Coast and secured it for display at Mobile Arts Council. Like Sirten, she was honored with the Mobile Arts Council's Arty Award.

Sirten helped form WZEW FM and his "Sunday Jazz Brunch" program was an adhesive holding together community members through shared experience for decades. Nearly as long, he hosted free public performances on both sides of Mobile Bay and provided invaluable exposure for area artists. He broadcast Mobile's talent across the state on public television.

Both Brown and Sirten earned awards from the Mobile Arts Council, and both died within months of each other in 2023.

As a key figure in the drive to establish and maintain MOJO, Brown was indispensable. MOJO's board was determined to honor her memory. When Sirten passed away just 13 weeks after Brown, his inclusion was obvious.

In 2024, musician/instructor/MOJO board member Rebecca Barry presented a collaborative idea. The Mystic Order of the Jazz Obsessed (MOJO) partnered with Coastal Alabama Community College to award a pair of music scholarships named for Brown and Sirten in helping memorialize their contributions to Azalea City cultural viability.

2024- **Brandon Arnold and Brandon Vega**

2025- **Jalen Gable and Seth Jenkins**

2026- **Zane C. Teel** – Carmen Brown Scholarship Winner (*Trombone & Guitar*)

**Owen Pierson** – Catt Sirten Scholarship Winner (*Bass*)