



Adam Jones from North Chesterfield, VA

Song: "A Father's Fear/Mardi Gras"

Mentor: Michael R. Jackson

Musical Director: Patrick Sulken



Adam Jones is a multi-instrument musician who began his freshman year at the University of North Carolina at Greensboro in August 2020 as a pre-med/music major with a focus on cello.

For three years, Adam performed as principal cellist with the Richmond Symphony Youth Orchestra program. He also held the principal cellist position in Clover Hill High School's Orchestra Cavalier21 for three years. While in high school he served in music and science honor societies.

Adam won the top prize for cello in the 2019 C.P. Jones National Music Contest in Chicago and in 2018 was named Chesterfield Colonial Heights Teen Idol with a performance on cello. Adam produced music for the film, *Welcome Home* that has been selected for the 2020 All American High School Film Festival.

Song description: The setting is 1940's- early 1950's New Orleans where a tall, well-dressed Black man named Quincy steps off a train. Quincy is from a well-off family in upstate New York that has roots in New Orleans. He has returned to the city with a sense of duty to serve as an educator for poor children there. The song starts with Quincy's father, Robert worrying about his son's safety in the Deep South. As the music changes to a New Orleans jazz sound, Quincy gets caught up in a Mardi Gras parade that despite the festiveness, confronts him with racial realities and reflections.

Jones's mentor Michael R. Jackson holds a BFA and MFA in playwriting and musical theatre writing from the New York University Tisch School of the Arts. As a songwriter, he has seen his work performed

everywhere from Joe's Pub to NAMT. He wrote lyrics and co-wrote book for the musical adaptation of the 2007 horror film *Teeth* with composer and co-bookwriter Anna K. Jacobs. He wrote book, music, and lyrics for the musicals *White Girl In Danger* and *A Strange Loop* (which will received its world premiere at Playwrights Horizons Theatre in May of 2019 and the 2020 Pulitzer Prize for Drama). He has received a 2017 Jonathan Larson Grant, a 2017 Lincoln Center Emerging Artist Award, a 2017 ASCAP Foundation Harold Adamson Award, a 2016/2017 Dramatist Guild fellowship, and was the 2017 Williamstown Theatre Festival Playwright-In-Residence. He has commissions from Grove Entertainment & Barbara Whitman Productions and LCT3.

Jones's music director Patrick Sulken is a New York City-based music director and orchestrator who most notably served as conductor and music director of *Pretty Woman: The Musical* on Broadway. As a conductor, his credits include *Kinky Boots* on Broadway, *Fly* at the La Jolla Playhouse, and the first national tour of *Peter and the Starcatcher*. As a pianist, he has accompanied the casts of *Mean Girls*, *Anastasia*, *Something Rotten!*, and *Gigi* on Broadway; and has been heard on the stages of Carnegie Hall, Lincoln Center, and the Kennedy Center as well as NBC's *Today* and TBS's *Full Frontal* with Samantha Bee. Sulken works extensively as a music director both Off-Broadway (*We Are The Tigers*, *Gigantic*) and at regional theatres across the country.