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Detroit Jazz Festival Presented by Quicken Loans Calls the City its Stage for the 37th Year

World's largest free jazz festival to take over downtown Detroit this Labor Day weekend

Detroit, Mich.,” September 1, 2016 — An eclectic and diverse lineup of jazz artists will again fill the streets of downtown Detroit with music during Labor Day weekend — Sept. 2 - 5 — for the 37th annual Detroit Jazz Festival presented by Quicken Loans.

The world's largest free jazz festival will once again present a mix of international and regional artists, legendary performers, up-and-comers and student groups to the heart of downtown Detroit. The lineup features more than 60 performances, taking place across four stages in Campus Martius and Hart Plaza over the course of the holiday weekend and is punctuated this year by legendary bassist, native Detroiter and 2016 Artist-in-Residence, Ron Carter, who is the most recorded bassist in history, appearing on more than 2,100 recordings.

“Over Labor Day weekend, Detroit comes alive in a unique and inspiring way as we celebrate the city's musical heritage, the gathering of people at our Festival and of course, amazing and unique jazz performances. Being able to share this wonderful experience with such a diverse group of people from all over the world makes the four-day event the cultural focal point of Detroit,” said Gretchen Valade, chair of the Detroit Jazz Festival Foundation Board.

Artist-in-Residence, Ron Carter, will kick off the Festival at 7 p.m. on Friday evening with the Ron Carter Nonet, which will feature four cellists. Carter's upbringing in Detroit and his return highlight The Homecoming Series presented by St. John Providence where he'll perform four times throughout the weekend with the nonet, trio, quartet and unique big band performance. The Homecoming Series has special performances by accomplished native Detroiters returning to their roots including:

- The Homecoming Band led by Kirk Lightsey/Louis Hayes Trio
- Stanley Cowell Quintet featuring Billy Harper and Charles Tolliver
- Charlie Gabriel Quintet
- Dave McMurray Trio/Detroit 3



New to the Festival this year is The Untitled Series: Unbound by Genre sponsored by Quicken Loans which will offer attendees a wide breadth of innovative and energetic musical experiences. Performers include The Soul Rebels, Cyrille Aimee, Luciana Souza, Terri Lyne Carrington's Mosaic Project, and many more. This exciting new series is more cutting-edge, spanning across genres in a way that will appeal to the eclectic individual of any age.

The Festival also features a Mentor-Disciple Series, showcasing jazz legends and their influence on today's jazz greats. This year's Mentor-Disciple Series lineup includes:

- Randy Weston's African Rhythms & the Wayne State University Big Band – 90th Birthday Celebration!!! A Showcase by the Michigan School Band and Orchestra Association
- Robert Hurst: Celebrating David Baker and Jazz Education
- Grégoire Maret & Inner Voices with special guest, Jean Baylor
- Detroit Public Schools Showcase

Also new this year is the New Voices Series featuring up-and-coming performers and the Legacy Series dedicated to trailblazers of the genre.

Performances from all stages every day of Festival weekend will be streamed across North America through Detroit Jazz Fest Live! The Festival's new app that will extend the stage experience and allow fans to watch on their mobile device, tablet or PC for \$30.

Beyond the various series taking place, there will be a variety of other unique performances including the Japanese Jazz band, Trisonique and others from the Yokohama Jazz Promenade in Japan. Trisonique will perform with Detroit jazz pros in a global jam session with artists from throughout the Festival on Monday, Sept. 5 at 12:15 p.m. at the "East Meets West Jam" on the JPMorgan Chase Stage. In a cultural exchange of musical ideas, the same performance will happen on Oct. 8 at the Yokohama Jazz Promenade in Japan.

Another one-of-a-kind performance will be a tribute to Nat "King" Cole and his daughter Natalie. The performance by Nat's brother Freddy Cole will be accompanied by the Detroit Jazz Festival String Orchestra. "Remembering Nat and Natalie" will take place on Sunday, Sept. 4 from 9:15-10:30 p.m. at the Carhartt Amphitheater Stage.

Additionally, attendees are welcome to experience a historic moment for jazz, TV and American society during a special viewing of the "The Nat 'King' Cole Show". The episodes will be screened at the Detroit Marriott at the Renaissance Center in 42 Degrees North at 11 p.m. on Saturday and Sunday night.

These episodes are part of the Festival after-hours activities, which also include musical collaborations and late-night jam sessions presented by Mack Avenue Records at the Detroit Marriott at the Renaissance Center. Festivalgoers can enjoy jam sessions on Friday, Saturday and Sunday night at 11 p.m.

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“This is my favorite time of year – when we come together as a community of jazz fans, music lovers and artists to experience the next great addition of the Detroit Jazz Festival, said Chris Collins, president and artistic director of the Detroit Jazz Festival Foundation. “We will have something to satisfy the musical cravings of people of all walks of life.”

The Festival brings tens of thousands of people into the city each year, many of whom do not call Detroit their home.

Beyond the Labor Day weekend Festival, the Detroit Jazz Festival Foundation provides educational opportunities year-round for students with an interest in the genre. Through concerts, programs and workshops, the Detroit Jazz Festival Foundation works hard to instill a strong appreciation for jazz in the community and understanding of its mark on Detroit, while building up the jazz talent of the future. For example, for the 10th consecutive year the Foundation hosted J.C. Heard JazzWeek@Wayne, a week-long intensive workshop done in partnership with the Wayne State University Department of Music. Students who participated in the workshop in July received a slot at the Festival and are performing as the J.C. Heard JazzWeek@Wayne All-Stars at 12:45 p.m. on Monday, Sept. 5 on the Pyramid Stage. Other participating student groups, beyond JazzWeek@Wayne and those in the Mentor-Disciple Series, include jazz bands from the University of Michigan and Michigan State University.

Other up-and-coming artists that will take the stage include the winner of the 2016 Detroit Jazz Festival Ron Carter National Jazz Bass Competition, Cole Davis, and the winners of the Detroit Jazz Festival Youth Vocal Jazz Competition, Jack Williams III and Atiya Whitehead.

Likewise, for additional information, the full list of performers and performance times, after-hours jam session schedule and more, visit www.detroitjazzfest.com. You can also follow the Festival on Facebook and Twitter.

About the Detroit Jazz Festival Foundation

The Detroit Jazz Festival Foundation is an independent, non-profit organization that presents jazz and educational workshops throughout the year. The Foundation supports the Detroit Jazz Festival, which is the largest free jazz festival in the world and a major tourist attraction for the City of Detroit, with 23 percent of its audience coming from out of state.

The Foundation receives grant funding from the Kresge Foundation, National Endowment for the Arts, Michigan Council for Arts and Cultural Affairs, Erb Family Foundation, Arts Midwest Touring Fund, Carolyn P. Wanzo and the Doris Duke Charitable Foundation. Hundreds of individual donors also contribute to the Festival through membership and donations.

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Major corporate partners include Quicken Loans, JPMorgan Chase & Co., DTE Energy Foundation, Mack Avenue Records, Carhartt, Inc., Ford Motor Company, Dirty Dog Jazz Cafe, Greektown Casino-Hotel, Absopure, and Comcast Cable. Additional partners include AARP, AMTECH International, Andiamo, Bedrock, Bingham Legal Group, Central Michigan University, Cliff Bell's, Detroit Marriott at the Renaissance Center, Detroit Saxophone Center, Detroit 300 Conservancy, George Johnson & Company, House of Pure Vin, LASIK Vision Institute, Meridian Health Plan, MGM Grand Detroit, Pepsi, Plante Moran, PNC Bank, St. John Providence, Wayne State University, Whole Foods Market and Woodward Gallery. Media partners include Fox 2, WJR, WDET-FM, WEMU-FM, WRCJ-FM, DownBeat, JazzTimes and MetroTimes. The Greening of the Festival is supported by a generous grant from the DTE Energy Foundation. For more information, visit www.detroitjazzfest.com.

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