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Detroit Jazz Festival Boasts Impressive Lineup of Hometown Artists

Detroit, Mich., June 27, 2017 – In its 38th year, the Detroit Jazz Festival, the world’s largest free jazz festival, has continued to stick true to its roots by booking more than 100 talented hometown artists to perform over Labor Day weekend. This impressive group of Detroit-area artists includes an eclectic and diverse array of acts that will appeal to audience members of all ages.

“The Detroit Jazz Festival Foundation is committed to the artists that have settled here, the ones that are from here, the ones that represent and are living the legacy of the Detroit jazz scene,” said Chris Collins, president and artistic director of the Detroit Jazz Festival Foundation. “Year-round we get the opportunity to put Detroit’s depth of jazz talent in the spotlight through unique collaborative opportunities, our ongoing concert series and, of course, the world’s largest free jazz festival.”

Fans of the Detroit jazz scene and music enthusiasts from around the world, will enjoy the following regional artists performing at this year’s Festival:

- **McKinFolk** – Gayelynn McKinney, Vincent Chandler, Dwight Adams, Marcus Elliot, Glenn Tucker, Marion Hayden and Michelle McKinney
- **Robert Hurst presents Black Current Jam** – Ian Finkelstein, Rafael Statin, Pepe Espinosa, Brendan Asante and Nathaniel Winn
- **Michael Dease Quintet – Detroit ‘Bone Celebrating J.J. Johnson, Curtis Fuller, & Frank Rosolino** – Michael Dease, Sam Dillon, Rodney Whitaker and Keith Hall
- **Urban Transport Reunion** – Sean Dobbins, Dean Moore, Joseph Diaz and Vincent Chandler
- **Vincent Bowens Organ Quartet** – Perry Hughes, George Davison, Glenn Tucker and Vincent Bowens
- **World Premiere “HANK’S SYMPHONY” the Music of Hank Mobley lyrics by George V. Johnson Jr. special guest Benny Golson** – Vincent Bowens, John Douglas, Michael Malis, Marion Hayden and Gayelynn McKinney

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- **Rodney Whitaker Quintet** – Rodney Whitaker, Diego Rivera, Richard Roe, Rockelle Fortin and Kavon Gordon
- **The Ali Bey Quartet** – Larry Andrew, Tim Stroud, Kasan Belgrave and Ali Bey
- **Sheila Landis Jazz** – Shelia Landis, Rick Matle and John Lindberg
- **The Ron English Jazz Band** – John Douglas, Dwight Adams, Davy Lazar, Dominic Bierenga, Jason Didia, Mark Kieme, Zen Zadavec, Jaribu Shahid, Renell Gonsalves and "Dr. Professor" Leonard King
- **Zen Zadavec Trio** – Zen Zadavec, Dominic Bierenga, Rocco Popielarski and David Zwolinski
- **Marcus Elliot Quartet** – Marcus Elliot, Michael Malis, Ben Rolston and Stephen Boegehold
- **Dreamers: The George "Sax" Benson Songbook** – Glenn Tucker, Vincent York, Wendell Harrison, Vincent Bowens, Steve Wood, Marion Hayden and Renell Gonsalves
- **Detroit Jazz Festival Orchestra**
- **Two Michigan School Band and Orchestra Association High School Showcases**
- **Detroit Public Schools Community District Showcase/All-City Jazz Combo**
- **J.C. Heard JazzWeek@Wayne All-Star Youth Combo**
- **Wayne State University Big Band I with guest artist Rick Margitza**
- **University of Michigan Combo Showcase**
- **Michigan State University Jazz Orchestra I**
- **And more!**

Beyond the listed acts, the Festival will celebrate its opening night (Sept. 1) with a Detroit Jazz Festival jam session in honor of George "Sax" Benson, a jazz saxophone soloist and educator from Detroit. The Mack Avenue Records Jam Session will take kickoff at 11 p.m. in the Renaissance Ballroom at the Detroit Marriott at the Renaissance Center. Benson, who has

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taught generations of jazz artists from his home studio, Wayne State University and the Detroit Wayne Music Studio (now part of the Detroit Saxophone Center), also will be honored through The Legacy Series. This series will celebrate the artistry and mentorship of Benson and will showcase artists who have been influenced by Benson's legacy.

"Booking artists is not an easy feat – especially in the Detroit region, which has an overwhelming number of phenomenal jazz players – and this year was no different," said Collins. "I think we have some really special collaborative and expressive performances coming from these artists and I can't wait to see them play out."

In an effort to continue providing one-of-a-kind experiences to music lovers everywhere, the Festival also has brought back the Detroit Jazz Fest LIVE! app. For \$10, festival-goers and people unable to attend the signature event can livestream Festival performances on mobile devices, tablets and desktops throughout Labor Day weekend. All other app features – maps, event details, artist bios and more – are free. Detroit Jazz Fest LIVE! is available at live.detroitjazzfest.com and the Google Play store, and will soon be available via the Apple App store. The app was made possible through a generous donation from the Doris Duke Charitable Foundation.

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 26 percent of its audience coming from out of state.

The Foundation receives grant funding from the Kresge Foundation, Michigan Council for Arts and Cultural Affairs, Erb Family Foundation, Arts Midwest and the National Endowment for the Arts. Hundreds of individuals also contribute to the Festival through membership and donations.

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 and Comcast Cable. Additional partners include Absopure, AMTECH International, Andiamo, Bedrock, Central Michigan University, Cliff Bell's, Detroit Marriott at the Renaissance Center, Detroit Saxophone Center, Detroit 300 Conservancy, Digital Planet, Murals in the Market, MGM Grand Detroit, Oakland University, Pepsi, Plante Moran, St. John Providence, Wayne State University, Whole Foods Market and Woodward Gallery. Media partners include Fox 2, WJR, WEMU-FM, *DownBeat*, *JAZZIZ*, *JazzTimes*, *Metro Times*, WRCJ and Detroit Public Television. 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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