

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Detroit Jazz Festival Foundation's Collegiate Combo Competition Finals Set for Thursday, Aug. 5 at the Dirty Dog Jazz Cafe

Regional, National Student Jazz Ensembles Vie for a Spot at the Detroit Jazz Festival presented by Rocket Mortgage, Cash Reward

DETROIT – The Detroit Jazz Festival Foundation today announced the finalists for the 2021 Collegiate Combo Competition. The final four student jazz ensembles are: Jordyn Davis & “Composetheway” (Michigan State University), L Stop (New York University), Mercer Patterson Quintet (University of Michigan), and Temple University Jazz Ensemble.

The four finalists will perform at the Dirty Dog Jazz Cafe on **Thursday, Aug. 5. Performances begin at 6:30 pm.** The winning ensemble receives a \$2,000 cash prize; be paid to perform at the Dirty Dog Jazz Cafe the next night, Friday, Aug. 6; and be a featured performance on the JPMorgan Chase Main Stage at the 2021 Detroit Jazz Festival presented by Rocket Mortgage held on Labor Day weekend.

“I am truly impressed by the quality and volume of respondents from across the country this year,” says Chris Collins, president and artistic director, Detroit Jazz Festival Foundation. “Without question, this year solidifies the Collegiate Combo Competition as a truly ‘must do’ for aspiring jazz ensembles in universities and colleges across the country and reaffirms our mission of jazz around the globe.”

In its 3rd year, the Collegiate Combo Competition, generously supported by Bingham Legal Group and Central Michigan University, is a key component in the Detroit Jazz Festival Foundation's year-round educational programming. The Competition celebrates the excellence and opportunity inherent in college and university jazz programs. Where once jazz was viewed as an inappropriate area of study in colleges and universities, now jazz degree programs and ensembles are a central part of many music departments across the country. These programs are led by some of the leading jazz artists in the world and offer students powerful mentoring, valuable information, creative directions, and unique performance opportunities. The Collegiate Combo Competition seeks to reward those student musicians who have developed the discipline, artistry and professionalism to thrive in this competitive and demanding environment.

“The Detroit Jazz Festival Foundation’s mission of education in all its forms and free jazz in the community is what drives our passion and commitment to Detroit,” said Gretchen Valade, chair, Detroit Jazz Festival Foundation Executive Board. “We are excited about the work we do to seek out new talent, promote excellence, produce everything jazz and celebrate all of it at the Detroit Jazz Festival on Labor Day weekend.”

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About the Detroit Jazz Festival Foundation

Known as the Angel of Jazz, Gretchen C Valade is the Chair of the Board of Directors. Gretchen’s vision and love of jazz guides the Foundation’s year-round activities including the signature event, the Detroit Jazz Festival.

Under the leadership of President and Artistic Director Chris Collins, the Detroit Jazz Festival Foundation is an independent, non-profit organization that presents jazz and educational workshops throughout the year. The Foundation produces the Detroit Jazz Festival, which is the signature event for the Foundation and the largest free jazz festival in the world. The Festival is also a major tourist attraction for the City of Detroit, with 26 percent of its audience coming from out of state. For more information, visit detroitjazzfest.org.

The Foundation receives grant funding from the Rocket Community Fund, Kresge Foundation, Fred A. and Barbara M. Erb Family Foundation, National Endowment for the Arts, Michigan Council for Arts and Cultural Affairs, Arts Midwest, D’Addario Foundation and Carolyn Wanzo and the Purify Wanzo CTAA Endowment at Wayne State University. Hundreds of individuals also contribute to the Festival through membership and donations.

Major corporate partners include presenting sponsor Rocket Mortgage, J.P. Morgan Chase & Co., DTE Foundation, Carhartt Inc., Mack Avenue Music Group, Dirty Dog Jazz Cafe, Absopure, Bingham Legal Group, Central Michigan University, George Johnson & Company, MGM Grand Detroit, and Michigan Hispanic Collaborative.

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