

46th Annual

DETROIT JAZZ

FESTIVAL

detroit
Jazz
FESTIVAL

August 29 – September 1, 2025

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FREE**
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46th ANNUAL
**detroit
Jazz**
FESTIVAL

2025 Detroit Jazz Festival Artist Laura Lybeer-Hilpert

Laura, a seasoned local graphic designer, has been collaborating with The Detroit Jazz Festival Foundation for many years since creating the Jazz Festival logo back in 2010. Her love of typography and inspiration from a street mural lead to this year's poster design.





A WELCOME MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

CHRIS COLLINS

Late one night I found myself in the Detroit Jazz Festival Foundation's warehouse purveying the archives. 46 years of posters, photos, programs, documents, videos and recordings; each telling a unique story about music, culture, artistry, commitment and generosity. Taken together, it was a stark reminder of the multiple generations and broad spectrum of people required to sustain such a huge, meaningful and fragile legacy event. In addition to the creativity and craftsmanship of the artists, each iteration of the Detroit Jazz Festival relies on visual designers, journalists, production experts, media, agents, road managers, security, police, municipal departments, the generosity of donors and the herculean efforts of the Detroit Jazz Festival Foundation team. While each has their own unique skills and responsibilities, they are all bound together by the music, excellence and a commitment to providing a safe and memorable experience for everyone...on, and off stage.

As you might imagine, keeping it all free, so everyone has access and feels welcome to this world of jazz, is nothing short of an annual miracle. In this case, the angels and saints behind the miracle are the caring and generous corporate sponsors, grantors, donors and philanthropists who place a high value on the importance of propagating jazz, art, culture and accessibility in Detroit for the world to experience. It is difficult to quantify the impact of 46 years of generosity and vision on the art form, our community and the jazz legacy – but, you will surely sense it in the air, in the music, in the audience and across the city. It is important to note the Detroit Jazz Festival is not free on the backs of artists and skilled craft workers. The Foundation employs union labor and pays artist fees competitive with premiere events around the world. Additionally, our recent audit showed 85 cents of every dollar goes to programming – an amazing accomplishment in the non-profit arts world. With an annual budget of 4.5-5 million dollars it has been suggested that a nominal ticket charge would be an easier solution than relying on community philanthropy (and that is an alluring option as a recent economic study showed the Detroit Jazz Festival annually brings 20-30 million dollars in economic development to Detroit) but, how many families and jazz lovers would be prohibited from attending part or all of this Detroit legacy event celebrating a music that is woven into our DNA? Too many!

This year as you immerse yourself in the great music and vibe of the Detroit Jazz Festival you will hear a lot about the Angel of Jazz Capital Campaign (in honor of Gretchen C. Valade) and various ways to contribute. If you can, please do – I am sure you will agree, the benefits of doing what we can, when we can far outweigh the loss of 46 years of access for all. Become an Angel of Jazz. Keep it FREE...Keep it JAZZ!

Chris Collins

President and Artistic Director, Detroit Jazz Festival Foundation

Invested in Detroit's future

From the stage to the streets, we're proud to uplift the city we call home — investing in the communities that keep Detroit moving forward.

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A MESSAGE FROM GOVERNOR

GRETCHEN WHITMER

Dear Friends,

As governor of Michigan, it is my distinct honor to welcome you to the 2025 Annual Detroit Jazz Festival. For over 45 years, the Detroit Jazz Festival has celebrated Detroit's rich history of jazz and world-class talent.

The Detroit Jazz Festival is an iconic Michigan tradition that brings together people from all backgrounds to celebrate Detroit's incredible jazz legacy. Since its founding in 1980, the Detroit Jazz Festival has brought people from all over to experience our city's rich history. Over the evolution of the festival, all those involved have remained committed to growing jazz of all forms by adding new artistic elements and opportunities to the program.

I am proud that Michigan is home to such a vibrant city like Detroit, which continues to build the jazz legacy in our state. The Detroit Jazz Festival is dedicated to honoring Detroit's musical roots and has influenced the next generation's appreciation for jazz in Metro Detroit and beyond. I would also like to extend my welcome and gratitude to all the talented musicians who have brought their music to the City of Detroit and my thanks to everyone who worked tirelessly to make this beloved event happen.

I send my best wishes to all attendees and musicians for another outstanding weekend of fun, friends, and great music.

Sincerely,



Gretchen Whitmer
Governor of Michigan

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A MESSAGE FROM COUNTY EXECUTIVE

WARREN EVANS

On behalf of the citizens of Wayne County, I would like to extend my sincere appreciation to all of the Detroit Jazz Festival (DJF) staff for continuing to make our county a tourist attraction to jazz lovers from around the state, the country, and the world.

The fact that the festival has remained a free event for 46 years is remarkable. Kudos to all the sponsors, supporters and funders who have made this a possibility. And of course there will always be a special place in our heart for the late Gretchen Valade, Detroit's "Angel of Jazz", whom we lost in January of 2023. Her extraordinary commitment to metro Detroit's jazz community has been a cultural lifesaver for the region.

I would also like to extend a special thanks to the DJF staff and support team, as well as the thousands of jazz lovers who come out to support this event every year. The Detroit Jazz Festival continues to be the largest and most awesome free jazz festival in the world. No one does it like Detroit, and no other city could do for one single event what we continue to do every single year.

Sincerely,



Warren C. Evans
Wayne County Executive



Follow us for Facebook Live interviews and performances; regular Spotify playlists created by celebrities, artists and Detroit Jazz Festival Foundation staff; Instagram takeovers; and live performance tweeting. Our goal is to keep you engaged with and uplifted by the art of jazz all year long.



@DetroitJazzFestival



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@DetroitJazzFest



A long history of helping.

We're proud to celebrate Detroit's vibrant musical legacy and honored to partner with the Detroit Jazz Festival Foundation.



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A MESSAGE FROM MAYOR

MICHAEL DUGGAN

Dear Friends: A hundred thousand welcomes!

Greetings and welcome to the 2025 46th Annual Detroit Jazz Festival held on August 29 – September 1, 2025, in Downtown Detroit – Hart Plaza!

Guided by President and Artistic Director Chris Collins, the Detroit Jazz Festival Foundation operates as an independent, non-profit organization dedicated to presenting jazz performances and educational workshops year-round. Its flagship event, the Detroit Jazz Festival, stands as the world's largest free jazz festival and serves as a cornerstone of the Foundation's mission. In addition to showcasing world-class music, the festival draws significant tourism to the City of Detroit, with 26 percent of attendees traveling from out of state.

On behalf of the City of Detroit, I want to recognize and applaud the Detroit Jazz Festival team for the vital contributions you make both locally and nationally. My sincere thanks go to the organizers, volunteers, and supporters who come together to ensure the success of the 46th Annual Detroit Jazz Festival. I extend my best wishes for a memorable event and a remarkable year ahead. Once again, thank you for your dedication and hard work.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mike Duggan". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Mike Duggan,
Mayor, City of Detroit

A man with glasses and a joyful expression is playing a double bass. He is wearing a light-colored suit jacket over a white shirt. The background is dark, making the man and his instrument stand out. The text is overlaid on the right side of the image.

DTE Foundation

WE'RE
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The arts enrich communities
and foster unity like few other
experiences. That's why the
DTE Foundation proudly
supports the Detroit Jazz

Festival, where music, community and culture
blend in the heart of Detroit.

FRIDAY, AUGUST 29

CARHARTT AMPHITHEATER STAGE (Hart Plaza)

- 6:00 p.m. Dr. Valade's Brass Band Featuring Shannon Powell ●
- 7:00–8:15 p.m. Keyon Harrold 'Foreverland'
- 9:00–10:15 p.m. 2025 Artist-In-Residence Jason Moran and Jeff Mills with special guest Jessica Care Moore ●

DETROIT JAZZ HALL located inside the Gretchen C. Valade Jazz Center at Wayne State University

- 10:30 p.m.–midnight Emmet Cohen Trio (*Midtown After Hours Special*)

SATURDAY, AUGUST 30

CARHARTT AMPHITHEATER STAGE (Hart Plaza)

- 2:30–3:45 p.m. Wayne State University Jazz Warriors Big Band under the direction of Professor Vincent Chandler
- 4:45–6:00 p.m. Herlin Riley Quartet
- 7:00–8:15 p.m. CHRIS POTTER TRIO Featuring Matt Brewer and Kendrick Scott
- 9:15–10:30 p.m. Hiromi's Sonicwonder

JPMORGAN CHASE MAIN STAGE (Cadillac Square)

- 2:45–3:45 p.m. Zen Zdravec ●
- 4:30–5:45 p.m. John Pizzarelli
- 6:30–7:45 p.m. Kenny Barron Voices featuring Tyreek McDole
- 8:45–10:00 p.m. Maria Schneider Orchestra

ABSOPURE WATERFRONT STAGE (Hart Plaza)

- 2:30–3:30 p.m. William Hill III
- 4:00–5:00 p.m. G S L (Gayelynn Sequoia Laura) ●
- 5:45–6:45 p.m. Allen Dennard Quartet ●
- 7:00–8:15 p.m. Tatiana Eva-Marie "Paris Je Taime!"
- 9:15–10:30 p.m. Endea Owens & The Cookout ●

DETROIT JAZZ HALL located inside the Gretchen C. Valade Jazz Center at Wayne State University

- 12:00–3:30 p.m. High School Showcase – University of Detroit Jazz Orchestra, Ludington High School Jazz Ensemble, Notre Dame Preparatory High School Jazz Band, Utica High School Jazz Band, Northville High School Jazz Ensemble
presented by Wayne State University

- 10:30 p.m.–midnight James Carter Organ Trio ● (*Midtown After Hours Special*)



**The Dirty Dog Jazz Cafe
is proud to honor the legacy of
Detroit's Angel of jazz,
Gretchen C. Valade.**



SUNDAY, AUGUST 31

CARHARTT AMPHITHEATER STAGE (Hart Plaza)

- 2:00–2:50 p.m. Downbeat Blindfold Test
- 3:20–4:30 p.m. Michigan State University Jazz Orchestra I Bebop Spartans under the direction of Professor Rodney Whitaker
- 5:15–6:30 p.m. Lakecia Benjamin
- 7:15–8:30 p.m. Omar Sosa Quarteto Americanos
- 9:15–10:30 p.m. Branford Marsalis Quartet

JPMORGAN CHASE MAIN STAGE (Cadillac Square)

- 2:45–3:45 p.m. Randy Napoleon and Waking Dream ●
- 4:30–5:45 p.m. Connie Han Trio
- 6:30–7:45 p.m. 2025 Artist-In-Residence Jason Moran presents the music of Duke Ellington featuring the Detroit Jazz Festival Collegiate Jazz Orchestra ●
- 8:45–10:00 p.m. Chucho Valdés & Paquito D’Rivera Reunion Sextet

ABSOPURE WATERFRONT STAGE (Hart Plaza)

- 1:30–2:15 p.m. J.C. Heard JazzWeek All-Stars featuring the 2025 Youth Jazz Vocal Competition Winner Kyla Deboes
- 2:20–3:05 p.m. Tottori Jazz Mission – Takumi Inoue Quartet featuring Himiko Kikuchi
- 3:05–3:45 p.m. Tottori Jazz Mission/J.C. Heard JazzWeek All-Stars International Jam
- 4:15–5:15 p.m. Detroit Jazz Queens – Paying Homage to Those Upon Whose Shoulders We Stand “Ella, Nancy, Dinah, Etta” ●
- 5:45–6:45 p.m. Ian Fink ●
- 7:30–8:30 p.m. Zambra (featuring Devon Gates, Ria Modak, Angela Varo, Bahar Badieitabar and Queralto Giralto)
- 9:15–10:30 p.m. Walter Smith III Quartet

DETROIT JAZZ HALL located inside the Gretchen C. Valade Jazz Center at Wayne State University

- 12:00–3:30 p.m. High School Showcase – Grosse Ile High School Jazz Band, East Kentwood High School Jazz 1, Meridian High School Jazz Ensemble, Rochester Adams High School, Northview High School Jazz Ensemble
presented by Wayne State University
- 10:30 p.m.–midnight Rodney Whitaker Sextet Performs the Music of Joe Henderson ●
(Midtown After Hours Special)



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MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 1

CARHARTT AMPHITHEATER STAGE (Hart Plaza)

- 1:30–2:30 p.m. Nick Collins Sextet ●
- 3:00–4:00 p.m. Louis Jones III & The Flood ●
- 4:45–6:00 p.m. John Scofield Quartet featuring Vicente Archer, Bill Stewart and Nicholas Payton

JPMORGAN CHASE MAIN STAGE (Cadillac Square)

- 1:00–2:00 p.m. University of Michigan Jazz Ensemble under the direction of Professor Ellen Rowe and University of Michigan Jazz Trombone Ensemble under the direction of Professor Dennis Wilson
- 2:30–3:30 p.m. Kris Davis Trio featuring Robert Hurst & Johnathan Blake
- 4:15–5:15 p.m. James Francies Trio
- 6:00–7:15 p.m. 2025 Artist-In-Residence Jason Moran and the Bandwagon w/ special guests Meshell Ndegeocello and Akili Bradley

ABSOPURE WATERFRONT STAGE (Hart Plaza)

- 1:30–2:30 p.m. Tiffany Gridiron & Friends ●
- 3:15–4:15 p.m. Collegiate Combo Competition Winner Sonder
- 5:00–6:15 p.m. Marion Hayden and Legacy with special guest Kamau Kenyatta ●

DETROIT JAZZ HALL located inside the Gretchen C. Valade Jazz Center at Wayne State University

- 12:00–2:30 p.m. Detroit Public Schools Community District Showcase – Duke Ellington Conservatory of Music and Art @ Beckham Academy, Renaissance High School, Detroit School of the Arts
- presented by Wayne State University

Midtown After Hours Special feature acts take place in the Detroit Jazz Hall inside the Gretchen C. Valade Jazz Center at Wayne State University located at 4743 Cass Ave. in Midtown, 2½ miles north of Hart Plaza.

Gates/Doors will open 1 hour before the first act each day, at the festival footprint and GCVJC. The MidTown After Hours Special shows will conclude at Midnight (Fri./Sat./Sun.).

● Detroit Signature Series Artists

All performances are subject to change.



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DETROIT SIGNATURE SERIES

Presented by Rocket Companies, identified by ● in the schedule

Jazz and Detroit have historically shared a symbiotic relationship – each feeding the other. Many legendary jazz artists have come from the rich, diverse culture of Detroit and gone on to shape the very fabric of this music. The Detroit Signature Series will feature performances by significant jazz artists, many who began their careers in the Detroit area and may have since moved on to other locales.



ARTISTS
NOT TO BE
MISSED

Dr. Valade's Brass Band Featuring Shannon Powell – Friday at 6:00 p.m. on the Carhartt Amphitheater Stage

Jason Moran and Jeff Mills with special guest Jessica Care Moore – Friday at 9:00 p.m. on the Carhartt Amphitheater Stage

Zen Zdravec – Saturday at 2:45 p.m. on the JPMorgan Chase Main Stage

GSL (Gayelynn Sequoia Laura) – Saturday at 4:00 p.m. on the Absopure Waterfront Stage

Allen Dennard Quartet – Saturday at 5:45 p.m. on the Absopure Waterfront Stage

Endea Owens & The Cookout – Saturday at 9:15 p.m. on the Absopure Waterfront Stage

James Carter Organ Trio (*Midtown After Hours Special*) – Saturday at 10:30 p.m. at the Detroit Jazz Hall located inside the Gretchen C. Valade Jazz Center at Wayne State University

Randy Napoleon and Waking Dream – Sunday at 2:45 p.m. on the JPMorgan Chase Main Stage

Jason Moran presents the music of Duke Ellington featuring the Detroit Jazz Festival Collegiate Jazz Orchestra – Sunday at 6:30 p.m. on the JPMorgan Chase Main Stage

Detroit Jazz Queens – Paying Homage to Those Upon Whose Shoulders We Stand “Ella, Nancy, Dinah, Etta” – Sunday at 4:15 p.m. on the Absopure Waterfront Stage

Ian Fink – Sunday at 5:45 p.m. on the Absopure Waterfront Stage

Rodney Whitaker Sextet Performs the Music of Joe Henderson (*Midtown After Hours Special*) – Sunday at 10:30 p.m. in the Detroit Jazz Hall located inside the Gretchen C. Valade Jazz Center at Wayne State University

Nick Collins Sextet – Monday at 1:30 p.m. on the Carhartt Amphitheater Stage

Louis Jones III & The Flood – Monday at 3:00 p.m. on the Carhartt Amphitheater Stage

Tiffany Gridiron & Friends – Monday at 1:30 p.m. on the Absopure Waterfront Stage

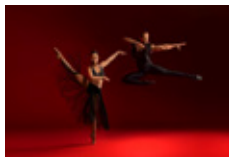
Marion Hayden and Legacy with special guest Kamau Kenyatta – Monday at 5:00 p.m. on the Absopure Waterfront Stage

Detroit Opera

25/26



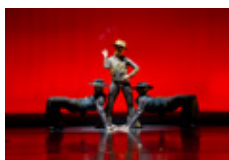
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DETROIT JAZZ FESTIVAL FOUNDATION

NEW JAZZ INFUSION

Detroit Jazz Festival Foundation is proud to partner with the Fred A. and Barbara M. Erb Family Foundation to support the New Jazz Infusion Project

In celebration of the Detroit Public Schools Community District's (DPSCD) legacy of producing leading jazz artists, the Detroit Jazz Festival Foundation places professional artist-educators in up to seven DPSCD middle and high schools. The program is carefully designed to support students and teachers in schools with established and burgeoning jazz programs. Detroit Jazz Festival Foundation Artist Educators work in schools twice per week throughout the school year mentoring students, workshoping bands, providing private lessons and engaging with the music teacher to grow the program and expose students to new opportunities, artistry and guidance.

The Detroit Jazz Festival Foundation works to provide additional performance opportunities for students of the DPSCD and collaborates with DPSCD to create the Detroit All-City High School Jazz Band.

There are few things in life that rival the joy one experiences from teaching and learning. We all are teachers. We all are students!

Detroit Public Schools Community District Showcase – Monday, 12:00 p.m. at the Gretchen C. Valade Jazz Center at Wayne State University



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TO THE BEAT



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DETROIT JAZZ FESTIVAL FOUNDATION

INTERNATIONAL INITIATIVES

The Detroit Jazz Festival Foundation, like jazz itself, is a global entity. Every year the Foundation creates and maintains international exchanges and Detroit Jazz Festival Foundation All-Star performances around the world. The artists in the All-Stars serve as ambassadors of Detroit culture and artistry, presenting concerts, educational workshops and hosting jam sessions in Europe, Panama, Japan and other countries.

Tottori Jazz Mission – Takumi Inoue Quartet featuring Himiko Kikuchi

Sunday at 2:20 p.m. & at 3:05 p.m. together with the J.C. Heard JazzWeek@Wayne All-Stars on the Absopure Waterfront Stage



Become a member and stream live jazz year-round
each Friday for free on live.detroitjazzfest.org



The RTA leads communities and transit providers on the mission of enhancing life across this region, bringing the people of Southeast Michigan closer together.



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DETROIT JAZZ FESTIVAL FOUNDATION

2025 COLLEGIATE COMBO COMPETITION

Proudly supported by Central Michigan University Detroit Office

The Collegiate Combo Competition aims to highlight the exceptional talents of young musicians who have honed their skills to excel in the competitive world of jazz. Jazz degree programs and ensembles are pivotal components of music departments nationwide, providing students with invaluable mentorship, opportunities for creative growth, skill enhancement, and distinctive performance experiences. This competition serves as a platform to recognize and celebrate the dedication and hard work of these aspiring professionals, showcasing the culmination of their efforts throughout the year. The winning band receives the opportunity to perform at the Detroit Jazz Festival.

Hear Sonder, winner of the 2025 Detroit Jazz Festival Foundation Collegiate Combo Competition

Monday at 3:15 p.m. on the Absopure Waterfront Stage



SEEKING
OUT AND
PRESENTING
NEW TALENT



Endea Owens

Recording artist, bassist, and composer

Rocket Community Fund is proud to support the Detroit Signature Series and the amazing artists pushing the boundaries of music and culture.

DETROIT JAZZ FESTIVAL FOUNDATION

2025 YOUTH JAZZ VOCAL COMPETITION

Proudly supported by the Bingham Legal Group

The Youth Jazz Vocal Competition shines a spotlight on the budding vocal talent of Detroit's youth, paying homage to the city's storied vocal legacy. Through mentorship and a diverse range of performance opportunities, students are provided with a platform to showcase their skills and cultivate their passion for singing. At the Dirty Dog Jazz Café, young jazz vocalists from high schools across the Detroit area come together to compete, supported by the acclaimed Detroit Jazz Festival All-Star trio.

Hear Kyla Deboes, winner of the 2025 Detroit Jazz Festival Foundation Youth Vocal Jazz Competition

Monday at 3:15 p.m. on the Absopure Waterfront Stage



Left to right: Kyla Deboes, Grace Markelle Robinson, Pallas Bibbs, Ava Noecker, Nicholas Rodgers



Cadillac Square

DETROIT JAZZ HALL
located inside the
Gretchen C. Valade
Jazz Center at
Wayne State University












2½ miles north of
Hart Plaza at
4743 Cass Ave.
in Midtown

SCAN FOR FAQ



detroitjazzfest.org

46TH ANNUAL DETROIT JAZZ FESTIVAL GROUNDS MAPS

- | | | | | | |
|--|-------------|---|-------------------|---|-----------------------|
|  | INFORMATION |  | RESTROOMS |  | MEDICAL TENT |
|  | MERCHANDISE |  | VENDOR BOOTHS |  | ACCESSIBILITY STATION |
|  | FOOD |  | SIGNING LOCATIONS |  | RECYCLING |
|  | DRINKS |  | VIP AREAS | | |



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DETROIT JAZZ FESTIVAL FOUNDATION

NEXT GENERATION DETROIT JAZZ INITIATIVE

The Next Generation Detroit Jazz provides young musicians with performance opportunities and avenues to promote their music. Our first initiative features the NextGen on one monthly *Jazz from the Cellar* and/or *After-Hours* session, recorded at the Gretchen C. Valade Jazz Center, followed by a livestream of the performance. This program is generously supported by Carolyn Wanzo & Friends.



Celebrating the Patrons

Thank you for your contributions towards funding the
Social Workers for Success Endowment at Wayne State University
and
The NextGen Initiative with The Detroit Jazz Festival

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Jeanine Tyree MSW
Jeff Dunn
John Bolden
Juanita Brown
Judge Cynthia Stevens
Julian McKinney
Julio Bateau
Karen Jackson Holzhauer
Kathy Paul
Ken Johnson
Kenan Bakirci
Kenneth Gregory
Kenneth Johnson
Kim Brown
Kim Sommerville
Kip Clements
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Lynn Burdine
Karen Johnson
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Mark Watkins
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DETROIT JAZZ FESTIVAL FOUNDATION

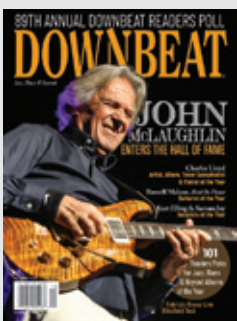
J.C. HEARD JAZZWEEK@WAYNE



Established in 2006 under the guidance of Artistic Director Chris Collins, J.C. Heard JazzWeek@Wayne offers a dynamic educational opportunity at no cost to participants. This summer camp facilitates direct engagement with Detroit Jazz Festival artists and grants access to professional jazz venues and performances. Students gain entry through a merit-based audition process, ensuring a high caliber of talent. Throughout the immersive week-long program, participants delve into various aspects of jazz, including improvisation, repertoire, styles, and communication.

J.C. Heard JazzWeek All-Stars – Sunday at 1:30 p.m. & at 3:05 p.m. with the Tottori Jazz Mission on the Absopure Waterfront Stage





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**2025 DETROIT JAZZ FESTIVAL
ARTIST-IN-RESIDENCE**

JASON MORAN

Pianist, composer, and artist Jason Moran has released 18 solo recordings with Blue Note Records and Yes Records. In 2022, he was inducted into the American Academy of Arts and Sciences and was recently awarded the 2023 German Jazz Prize for Pianist of the Year. His latest recording, *From the Dancehall to the Battlefield*, is devoted to the music of World War I jazz pioneer and organizer James Reese Europe. Moran presented this spectacular multimedia jazz performance during the 2023 Detroit Jazz Festival on the Carhartt Amphitheater Stage.

Moran has collaborated with several contemporary artists, such as Joan Jonas, Kara Walker, Stan Douglas, Theaster Gates, and Remy Jungman.

Friday at 9:00 p.m. on the Carhartt Amphitheater Stage

2025 ARTIST-IN-RESIDENCE JASON MORAN AND JEFF MILLS WITH SPECIAL GUEST JESSICA CARE MOORE

Saturday, 6:30 p.m. on the JPMorgan Chase Main Stage

JASON MORAN PRESENTS THE MUSIC OF DUKE ELLINGTON FEATURING THE DETROIT JAZZ FESTIVAL COLLEGIATE JAZZ ORCHESTRA

Monday, 6:00 p.m. on the JPMorgan Chase Main Stage

JASON MORAN AND THE BANDWAGON W/ SPECIAL GUESTS MESHELL NDEGECELLO AND AKILI BRADLEY



The College of the Arts and Media,
 the **CMU School of Music** and
 the **Detroit Office** of
Central Michigan University
 are proud to work together to be a part of
 the Detroit Jazz Festival.



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CENTRAL MICHIGAN UNIVERSITY



25 GRAND YEARS



MGM GRAND DETROIT IS PROUD TO SUPPORT THE 2025 DETROIT JAZZ FESTIVAL

Here at MGM Grand Detroit, we are excited to reach the milestone of 25 years of social impact within our community. We look forward to bringing the pride of our team members, the impact of our partnership and providing great service to our guests as we continue this journey.



FOCUSED ON WHAT MATTERS

EMBRACING HUMANITY. PROTECTING THE PLANET.

DR. VALADE'S BRASS BAND FEATURING SHANNON POWELL

Friday, 6:00 p.m. on the Carhartt Amphitheater Stage

Shannon Powell, known as "The King of Treme," is a globally respected drummer celebrated for his powerful technique and rich New Orleans heritage. His career launched touring with Harry Connick, Jr., contributing to two platinum albums. Powell has worked with Wynton Marsalis, Diana Krall, Dr. John, and the Preservation Hall Jazz Band, among others. A band leader and educator, he's recorded his own album, *Powell's Place*, blending traditional and original jazz. A fixture on the traditional jazz circuit, Powell continues to influence the genre as both performer and clinician, embodying the spirit and legacy of New Orleans music.



KEYON HARROLD 'FOREVERLAND'

Friday, 7:00 p.m. on the Carhartt Amphitheater Stage

Keyon Harrold is an acclaimed trumpeter, vocalist, and producer touring in support of his album *Foreverland* on the Concord label, featuring collaborations with Common, Robert Glasper, PJ Morton, and Laura Mvula. Known as the trumpet voice behind the Don Cheadle film *Miles Ahead*, Harrold's warm, distinctive tone bridges jazz, soul, hip-hop, and Afrobeat. Wynton Marsalis calls him "the future of the trumpet." Beyond jazz, he's worked with artists including Beyoncé, Jay-Z, Rihanna, and Keith Richards. Harrold currently leads a quintet blending African American musical traditions into a dynamic, genre-bending sound he calls "Hip-Hop Pop Bop."



EMMET COHEN TRIO

Friday, 10:30 p.m. in the Detroit Jazz Hall located inside the Gretchen C. Valade Jazz Center at Wayne State University

Pianist Emmet Cohen is a leading voice in contemporary jazz, known for his dynamic performances and educational outreach. Winner of the 2019 American Pianists Awards, Cohen leads his acclaimed trio and created the Masters Legacy Series honoring jazz legends. He regularly headlines venues like Jazz at Lincoln Center and the Village Vanguard and has performed in over 30 countries. Cohen's developed "Live from Emmet's Place," a live-streamed "Harlem rent party" that united a worldwide audience via the internet. Cohen has appeared regularly with Ron Carter, Benny Golson, Jimmy Cobb, George Coleman, Jimmy Heath, Tootie Heath, Houston Person, Kurt Elling, Billy Hart, and Brian Lynch.



**MIDTOWN
AFTER
HOURS**



WILLIAM HILL III

Saturday, 2:30 p.m. on the Absopure Waterfront Stage

Detroit pianist, composer, and bandleader William Hill III is an emerging force in jazz. A graduate of the Detroit School of Arts and currently studying at the Manhattan School of Music, Hill has honed his craft through esteemed programs including Jazz House Kids, Jazz at Lincoln Center's Jr. Jazz Academy, and Betty Carter's Jazz Ahead. He's earned recognition from the National YoungArts Foundation and NAACP ACT-SO. Hill has performed at venues like the Detroit Jazz Festival, Blue Note Tokyo, and Dizzy's Club. Mentored by artists like Christian McBride and Wynton Marsalis, Hill released his debut album *Three's Company* in 2024.



ZEN ZDRAVEC

Saturday, 2:45 p.m. on the JPMorgan Chase Main Stage

This performance will feature a showcase of all-new original material by Zen Zdravec, which will be officially released in October 2025 on Marmite Records (pronounced Mar-ma-tay). The music is dynamic, melodic, and deeply original. Zen has assembled a traditional rhythm section – piano, bass, and drums – enhanced by saxophone, voice, and, now, electric guitar. While his compositional style remains rooted in the conceptual sound of jazz legends Chick Corea and Herbie Hancock, the introduction of electric guitar adds a vibrant new dimension to his work. The result is a fresh sonic landscape that is sure to captivate and satisfy listeners.



G S L (GAYELYNN SEQUOIA LAURA)

Saturday, 4:00 p.m. on the Absopure Waterfront Stage

G S L is new to the scene, put together by veteran Gayelynn McKinney, to showcase the up and coming talented young women in jazz. These young ladies have already been making their mark on the music scene. G S L's performance will be a mix of traditional jazz with a twist, some odd meter music, original music, sprinkled with some funk. Gayelynn, Sequoia & Laura, (G S L) will bring a fresh new sound and energy to the stage that you will enjoy.

JOHN PIZZARELLI

Saturday, 4:30 p.m. on the JPMorgan Chase Main Stage

Guitarist and vocalist John Pizzarelli is celebrated for revitalizing the Great American Songbook while expanding its reach to include artists like Paul McCartney, Joni Mitchell, and Antônio Carlos Jobim. A Grammy® winner and acclaimed bandleader, he's also collaborated with Natalie Cole, Kristin Chenoweth, Rosemary Clooney, and his father, Bucky Pizzarelli. As co-host of Radio Deluxe with his wife Jessica Molaskey, Pizzarelli shares his love of jazz beyond the stage. He's appeared on major TV programs like *The Tonight Show* and *Great Performances*, and continues to blend tradition with innovation, earning praise as one of today's foremost interpreters of classic jazz.



HERLIN RILEY QUARTET

Saturday, 4:45 p.m. on the Carhartt Amphitheater Stage

New Orleans native Herlin Riley is one of the premier drummers in jazz today. A member of the renowned Lastie musical family, Riley began drumming at age three and played trumpet through college. His career includes stints with Ahmad Jamal, Al Hirt, and Wynton Marsalis, contributing to the Pulitzer-winning *Blood on the Fields*. Riley has performed with George Benson, Harry Connick Jr., Dr. John, Dianne Reeves, Jon Batiste, and more. Also an educator, Riley has taught at Northwestern, Juilliard, and the University of New Orleans. He leads the New Orleans Groove Masters and has four recordings as a leader including *Watch What You're Doing* and *Cream of the Crescent*.



ALLEN DENNARD QUARTET

Saturday, 5:45 p.m. on the Absopure Waterfront Stage

Detroit trumpeter Allen Dennard is a rising force in jazz, known for his bold, expressive sound. A student of Detroit's rich musical legacy, he's performed with Ray J, the MC5, Alice Cooper, and K'Jon, and worked alongside icons like Gayelynn McKinney, David McMurray, and J.D. Allen. A five-time Detroit Jazz Festival performer, Dennard headlined the festival in 2022 with his quintet. His albums *Stepping In* and *Flashback* earned acclaim, with *Flashback* receiving a Detroit Music Award nomination. In 2025, Dennard released *Black Valley*, earning international recognition, and toured Japan as a Detroit Jazz Festival ambassador.





KENNY BARRON VOICES FEATURING TYREEK MCDOLE

Saturday, 6:30 p.m. on the JPMorgan Chase Main Stage

NEA Jazz Master Kenny Barron started his career as a teenager with Philly Joe Jones and moved to New York at 19, playing with Dizzy Gillespie, Freddie Hubbard, and Yusef Lateef. A prolific bandleader, Barron has recorded over 40 albums and has earned 14 Grammy® nominations. A dedicated educator, he taught at Rutgers University for nearly 30 years, mentoring artists like Terence Blanchard and David Sánchez. In 2009 he received the Living Legacy Award from Mid-Atlantic Arts Foundation and was inducted into the American Jazz Hall of Fame and won a MAC Lifetime Achievement Award in 2005. He is an eight-time recipient of Best Pianist by the Jazz Journalists Association.



CHRIS POTTER TRIO FEATURING MATT BREWER AND KENDRICK SCOTT

Saturday, 7:00 p.m. on the Carhartt Amphitheater Stage

A world-class soloist, accomplished composer, and formidable bandleader, Grammy®-nominated Potter has emerged as a leading light of his generation. Potter's music showcases limitless creativity and a vibrant sense of swing, prompting critics, musicians, and fans alike to cite him as the one of the finest saxophonists today. He has performed or recorded with many leading names in jazz, including Herbie Hancock, Dave Holland, John Scofield, the Mingus Big Band, Jim Hall, Paul Motian, Dave Douglas, and Ray Brown. Potter's discography includes 15 albums as a leader. His latest album, *Eagle's Point*, features him in a collaborative band that includes Brad Mehldau, John Patitucci, and Brian Blade.



TATIANA EVA-MARIE “PARIS JE TAIME!”

Saturday, 7:00 p.m. on the Absopure Waterfront Stage

Swiss-born and Brooklyn-based, Tatiana Eva-Marie is a celebrated jazz vocalist known for blending French, Balkan, and American influences. Raised in a musical family, she found her voice singing in the streets of Paris before establishing herself on international stages. Her music draws inspiration from Parisian jazz of the 1920s–60s, Gypsy melodies, and the Great American Songbook, reinterpreting works by Django Reinhardt and Cole Porter alongside her own original arrangements. In 2024, Eva-Marie premiered her first opera in Switzerland and released *Djangology* on GroundUp Music. Her warm, nostalgic style captures her multicultural heritage and deep love of jazz tradition.

MARIA SCHNEIDER ORCHESTRA

Saturday, 8:45 p.m. on the JPMorgan Chase Main Stage

The Maria Schneider Orchestra has performed worldwide for three decades. Schneider's commissioners and collaborators stretch from the Carnegie Hall Jazz Orchestra, to The Saint Paul Chamber Orchestra, to collaboration with David Bowie, making her among a small few to receive a Grammy® in multiple genres, having received the award in jazz and classical, as well as for her work with David Bowie. 14 Grammy®-nominations, 7 Grammy® Awards, numerous Jazz Journalists Association awards, *DownBeat* and *JazzTimes* Critics and Readers Polls awards, honorary doctorates, ASCAP's esteemed Concert Music Award, NEA Jazz Master, as well as induction into the Academy of Arts and Letters are among Schneider's and her orchestra's many honors.



HIROMI'S SONICWONDER

Saturday, 9:15 p.m. on the Carhartt Amphitheater Stage

Piano virtuoso Hiromi has amazed audiences worldwide with her explosive style and genre-bending compositions for over two decades. A GRAMMY® winner and 2024 Japanese Academy Award recipient for *Blue Giant*, she's played everything from NPR's Tiny Desk to the Tokyo Olympics. In 2023, she introduced Sonicwonder—featuring Hadrien Feraud, Gene Coye, and Adam O'Farrill—fusing jazz-rock, funk, and acoustic jazz. Their debut album *Sonicwonderland* and follow-up *OUT THERE* highlight the group's fiery interplay and Hiromi's signature flair. A global ambassador for jazz innovation, Hiromi continues to redefine piano-driven music with creativity, power, and exhilarating energy.



ENDEA OWENS & THE COOKOUT

Saturday, 9:15 p.m. on the Absopure Waterfront Stage

Detroit native Endea Owens is a Grammy®, Emmy, and Peabody Award-winning bassist, composer, and Juilliard graduate. Mentored by jazz greats Marcus Belgrave and Ron Carter, she's performed with Wynton Marsalis, Diana Ross, Jon Batiste, and more. A member of The Late Show with Stephen Colbert's Stay Human band, her music also appears in *Judas and the Black Messiah* and H.E.R.'s Super Bowl performance. Owens founded The Community Cookout, feeding thousands with meals and music. Endea composed an original piece about Ida B. Wells for the Jazz at Lincoln Center Orchestra which was also performed by the NYO Carnegie Hall Orchestra. Her debut album *Feel Good Music* released in 2022, with a follow-up set for 2026.





MIDTOWN
AFTER
HOURS

JAMES CARTER ORGAN TRIO

Saturday, 10:30 p.m. in the Detroit Jazz Hall located inside the Gretchen C. Valade Jazz Center at Wayne State University

Detroit saxophonist James Carter is renowned for his powerful sound and genre-crossing versatility. Inspired by jazz legends from Billie Holiday to the World Saxophone Quartet, Carter's prodigious talent earned him early acclaim, leading to collaborations with Wynton Marsalis, Dee Dee Bridgewater, and Lester Bowie. Master of the saxophone family, Carter's dynamic career spans 18 recordings, including his Blue Note debut *Live from Newport Jazz*, and *Chasin' the Gypsy*, honoring Django Reinhardt. A celebrated concerto soloist, Carter has performed Roberto Sierra's *Concerto for Saxophones and Orchestra* with symphonies worldwide. Known for electrifying performances, Carter remains a pioneering voice in contemporary jazz.

TOTTORI JAZZ FESTIVAL in JAPAN

Launched 2011 in Tottori city in Japan. Tottori is located in Western Japan along the coast of the Sea of Japan. The prefecture is known for its sand dune. 15 years has passed, the fest became a popular annual event in the Spring. The concept is "Jazz and Art." During the festival, you can hear a lot of live jazz music anywhere in the city and see the art exhibition. Also the festival organizes "jazz workshop for kids." They keep on spreading jazz culture from Tottori



The 16th Tottori JAZZ 2026
April 29(International Jazz Day) ~ May 2

TOTTORI JAZZ MISSION – TAKUMI INOUE QUARTET FEATURING HIMIKO KIKUCHI

Sunday, 2:20 p.m. on the Absopure Waterfront Stage

Tottori Jazz has been collaborating with the Detroit Jazz Festival since 2019. In 2024, a band centered around Tottori University students, The Bop's, performed at the Detroit Jazz Festival. This time, Takumi Inoue, the leader of The Bop's, will invite Himiko Kikuchi, the representative of Tottori Jazz, to perform as "Takumi Inoue Quartet featuring Himiko Kikuchi." The set will showcase Inoue's original compositions, combining the musicality of Tottori with traditional jazz. Having steadily expanded their activities since their debut at the Detroit Jazz Festival last year, the group will deliver the unique sound of Tottori's music scene.



RANDY NAPOLEON AND WAKING DREAM

Sunday, 2:45 p.m. on the JPMorgan Chase Main Stage

An Associate Professor at Michigan State University and Associate Director of Jazz Studies, guitarist Randy Napoleon cut his teeth touring with pianist Benny Green, The Clayton-Hamilton Jazz Orchestra, Michael Bublé, and a thirteen-year tenure with Freddy Cole. Napoleon has performed or arranged on over seventy records including the Grammy®-nominated releases, *Freddy Cole Sings Mr. B* and *My Mood Is You*. Napoleon is featured on Bublé's Grammy®-nominated CD/DVD *Caught in the Act*. Television credits include *The Tonight Show*, *Late Night with David Letterman*, *The View*, and the *Today Show*, and live performances span the globe including Royal Albert Hall, The Sydney Opera House, The Hollywood Bowl, and Lincoln Center.



DETROIT JAZZ QUEENS – PAYING HOMAGE TO THOSE UPON WHOSE SHOULDERS WE STAND “ELLA, NANCY, DINAH, ETTA”

Sunday, 4:15 p.m. on the Absopure Waterfront Stage

The Detroit Jazz Queens unite in a powerful sisterhood to honor the legendary women of jazz. Led by Grammy®-considered vocalist and WJZZ radio host **Joan Belgrave**, the ensemble also features Detroit icons **Diane Mathis**, **Joni Crawford**, and **Tonya Hood**. Each brings decades of artistry, from Mathis' early tour with Lou Rawls to Crawford's international performances and radio production, to Hood's mentorship under Marcus Belgrave and tenure with Motown's Vandellas. With The Detroit Sound band (Zen Zadravec, Nate Winn, Jaribu Shahid, & John Douglas), they channel resilience, brilliance, and soul – standing on the shoulders of jazz greats to inspire the next generation.





CONNIE HAN TRIO

Sunday, 4:30 p.m. on the JPMorgan Chase Main Stage

Hailed by *Downbeat Magazine* “The Jazz Warrior-Goddess” with “a skill and ferocity unmatched by all but the most accomplished of pianists,” the 27-year-old piano wizard and composer interprets the jazz piano pantheon with her own fiery, contemporary style. Named a Steinway Artist in 2019, the pianist exhibits her charismatic playing style in its full emotional range on *Secrets of Inanna*, Han’s third release on Mack Avenue Records. This release portrays the Sumerian mythos of the goddess’ solitary descent into the abyss of her soul: the underworld. Han believes in the power of myth to lead a grounded existence as an artist and human being.



LAKECIA BENJAMIN

Sunday, 5:15 p.m. on the Carhartt Amphitheater Stage

Five-time Grammy® nominee Lakecia Benjamin is an alto saxophonist, MC, and bandleader known for her captivating live performances. Her acclaimed albums *Phoenix* and *Pursuance: The Coltranes* have firmly established her among jazz’s foremost artists. *Phoenix* earned her three Grammy® nominations and an NAACP Image Award nomination for Outstanding Jazz Album. Named Alto Saxophonist of the Year by the Jazz Journalist Association and Jazz Scholar by the Library of Congress, Benjamin’s prominence continues to rise. In 2024, she released *Phoenix Reimagined (Live)* on Ropeadope, featuring collaborations with John Scofield, Randy Brecker, and JeU “Tain” Watts. Her performance was highlighted on *The Late Show with Stephen Colbert* and received 2 Grammy® nominations.



IAN FINK

Sunday, 5:45 p.m. on the Absopure Waterfront Stage

Detroit pianist, producer, DJ, and composer Ian Fink (Ian Finkelstein) is a rising force in modern jazz, blending virtuosity with genre-spanning versatility. A protégé of Marcus Belgrave and Geri Allen, and a University of Michigan graduate, Fink tours internationally with Kassa Overall and Shigeto. He has performed with Esperanza Spalding, Benny Golson, Terri Lyne Carrington, and Karriem Riggins, and his work appears on recordings by Earl Sweatshirt, Robert Hurst, and Black Milk. Founder of the Freak Press label, Fink was named a 2024 Kresge Artist Fellow and a Spirit of Detroit honoree. He continues to shape Detroit’s jazz sound as both leader and collaborator.

OMAR SOSA QUARTETO AMERICANOS

Sunday, 7:15 p.m. on the Carhartt Amphitheater Stage

Cuban pianist and composer Omar Sosa reunites with early collaborators for his first U.S.-based jazz ensemble in decades: Quarteto Americanos. Featuring drummer Josh Jones, bassist Ernesto Mazar Kindelán, and saxophonist Sheldon Brown, the group revives Sosa's early compositions while exploring new material written during lockdown. Their sound blends jazz, Afro-Cuban rhythms, hip-hop, and electronica into a contemporary, high-energy mix. Known for his genre-defying style and captivating performances, Sosa leads Quarteto Americanos in creating music that's both nostalgic and forward-thinking, showcasing his distinctive fusion of global musical influences with jazz improvisation.



ZAMBRA (FEATURING DEVON GATES, RIA MODAK, ANGELA VARO, BAHAR BADIEITABAR AND QUERALT GIRALT)

Sunday, 7:30 p.m. on the Absopure Waterfront Stage

Zambra (from the Arabic word for "gathering") is a quintet that weaves diverse traditions from across the globe, comprised of Devon Gates (bass, Atlanta, GA), Ria Modak (guitar, NYC), Angela Varo Moreno (violin, Andalusia, Spain), Bahar Badieitabar (oud, Tehran, Iran), and Queralt Giralt (cello, Catalonia, Spain). This collaboration brings together musicians to create a fusion of flamenco, Romani, Persian classical, Indian, Catalanian, and jazz traditions. Through original compositions and imaginative arrangements of traditional melodies, Zambra celebrates cultural connection, sisterhood, and improvisation. Their performances create intimate sonic worlds grounded in deep friendship and mutual respect, inviting both musicians and audiences into spaces of vulnerability and creative discovery.



CHUCHO VALDÉS & PAQUITO D'RIVERA REUNION SEXTET

Sunday, 8:45 p.m. on the JPMorgan Chase Main Stage

The history of the close friendship and shared musical adventures between pianist and composer Chucho Valdés and saxophonist, clarinetist, and composer Paquito D'Rivera goes back 60 years. But in recent decades, their paths rarely crossed. They are now making up for lost time with a new album, *I Missed You Too*, and a world tour. In their reunion, they are accompanied by an extraordinary ensemble. It includes Diego Urcola on trumpet and valve trombone, Armando Gola on contrabass and electric bass, Horacio Hernandez on drums, and Roberto Jr. Vizcaino on percussion. The selected repertoire includes old hits, some of them already Latin Jazz standards, classics of the Latin American repertoire, and new compositions.





BRANFORD MARSALIS QUARTET

Sunday, 9:15 p.m. on the Carhartt Amphitheater Stage

Saxophonist Branford Marsalis is one of the most influential figures in modern jazz. A Grammy® winner, NEA Jazz Master, and Tony Award nominee, Marsalis leads his acclaimed quartet, known for its dynamic sound and musical depth. After collaborations with Kurt Elling and symphony orchestras, the quartet's latest release *Belonging* debuted on Blue Note Records, offering their interpretation of Keith Jarrett's 1974 album. Whether performing jazz standards, original works, or popular classics, the Branford Marsalis Quartet consistently delivers powerful, cerebral performances, earning critical praise for their energy and artistry in both studio recordings and live shows.



WALTER SMITH III QUARTET

Sunday, 9:15 p.m. on the Absopure Waterfront Stage

Saxophonist Walter Smith III is an acclaimed performer, composer, and educator. A member of groups led by Roy Haynes, Terence Blanchard, and Eric Harland, Smith has performed at major festivals and venues including Carnegie Hall and the Village Vanguard. His 2023 album *Return to Casual* marked his Blue Note Records debut, showcasing his cool, sophisticated sound. His sophomore Blue Note album was released in 2024. Having worked with Herbie Hancock, Joe Lovano, and Maria Schneider, Smith has appeared on over 100 recordings. Originally from Houston, he now serves as Chair of Woodwinds at Berklee College of Music in Boston.



MIDTOWN
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RODNEY WHITAKER SEXTET PERFORMS THE MUSIC OF JOE HENDERSON

Sunday, 10:30 p.m. in the Detroit Jazz Hall located inside the Gretchen C. Valade Jazz Center at Wayne State University

The Rodney Whitaker Sextet will present a captivating journey through the iconic compositions of Joe Henderson. Spanning the pivotal years of 1961 to 1970, this repertoire showcases enduring masterpieces that continue to resonate deeply with listeners. Among these timeless classics are "The Kicker," "Punjab," "Serenity," "Shade of Jade," and "Tetragon." The program also features selections where Henderson's virtuosity is showcased on recordings by Kenny Durham, including "Escapade," "Blue Bossa," and the ever-popular jazz standards "Invitation," "Isfahan," "Recorda-me," and "Without a Song." This performance promises an unforgettable exploration of Henderson's profound musical legacy.

NICK COLLINS SEXTET

Monday, 1:30 p.m. on the Carhartt Amphitheater Stage

The Nick Collins Sextet features Dwight Adams (trumpet), Andrew Rathbun (saxophone), Ben Lafo (trombone), Rick Roe (piano), and Langston Kitchen (bass). These bandmates are a dream team of the Detroit scene, with its members having worked with such legends as Louis Hayes, Ron Carter, Marcus Belgrave, Sean Dobbins, Gerald Cleaver, Rodney Whitaker, Randy Napoleon, and many others. They play regularly at the Blue Llama Jazz Club, where they have been in residence since 2022. Drummer and bandleader Collins has assembled a large repertoire of high energy, hard-swinging original arrangements and compositions, making a point to keep a regular band with consistent personnel.



TIFFANY GRIDIRON & FRIENDS

Monday, 1:30 p.m. on the Absopure Waterfront Stage

Jazz vocalist and songwriter Tiffany Gridiron captivates audiences with her rich, sultry tone and heartfelt delivery. She began singing as a child in her family church, but was particularly inspired by singer Jill Scott before being introduced to the poetry and improvisation of jazz through vocalist and educator Sunny Wilkinson. She has recorded five albums with SONY Japan featuring legends like Hank Jones and Omar Hakim and has built a global following. Her 2023 album, co-created with producer Kris Johnson, showcases personal, introspective compositions that explore the human condition. Gridiron's performances span jazz standards, original works, and lyrical storytelling.



KRIS DAVIS TRIO

FEATURING ROBERT HURST & JOHNATHAN BLAKE

Monday, 2:30 p.m. on the JPMorgan Chase Main Stage

Kris Davis is a Grammy® award-winning pianist and composer who has released 25 recordings as a leader or co-leader and collaborated with artists such as Terri Lyne Carrington, Dave Holland, John Zorn, Craig Taborn, Ingrid Laubrock, Tyshawn Sorey, and Esperanza Spalding. She was named a 2021 Doris Duke Artist, Pianist of the Year by *DownBeat Magazine* in 2022 and 2020, and Pianist and Composer of the Year by the Jazz Journalists Association in 2021. A Steinway Artist, Davis is the Associate Program Director of Creative Development at the Berklee Institute of Jazz and Gender Justice, the founder of Pyroclastic Records, and the co-founder of the International Creators and Collaborators Workshop.





LOUIS JONES III & THE FLOOD

Monday, 3:00 p.m. on the Carhartt Amphitheater Stage

Drummer, composer, and Detroit native Louis M. Jones III brings his quintet with a bold set of original music from his new album, *Alternative Facts*. Deeply inspired by the city that raised him, Louis draws on Detroit's rich musical lineage – along with the social and political landscapes that shaped the years during which these compositions were written. Each piece in this performance reflects a distinct chapter of personal and collective experience. Louis's blends swing, hip-hop, soul, and avant-garde elements into a forward-looking sound rooted in tradition. This performance embodies the creativity, resilience, and rhythm that define both his music and his hometown.



JAMES FRANCIES TRIO

Monday, 4:15 p.m. on the JPMorgan Chase Main Stage

Since his 2018 debut *Flight*, pianist, producer, and composer James Francies has expanded his explorations of cinematic jazz composition. He has collaborated with Childish Gambino, Pat Metheny, Mark Ronson, YEBBA, Drake, Common, and Lauryn Hill. Playing piano since age 4, Francies was influenced by both the church and his unique gifts – perfect pitch and synesthesia. Early experience with Jeff “Tain” Watts and Chris Dave and the Drumhedz propelled him forward, while Chris Potter tapped him for his Circuits trio along with Eric Harland, and Pat Metheny assembled a trio with Francies and Marcus Gilmore. He has also become a go-to resource for Questlove and the Roots.



JOHN SCOFIELD QUARTET FEATURING VICENTE ARCHER, BILL STEWART AND NICHOLAS PAYTON

Monday, 4:45p.m. on the Carhartt Amphitheater Stage

There has been a John Scofield Trio at play since the late 70's and it undisputedly remains his favorite format. The newest incarnation – Scofield on guitar, bassist Vicente Archer and drummer Bill Stewart are having fun. They sail through tightly knit sets that typify the musical diversity that has colored Scofield's long career: time honored jazz standards, rock and blues classics, savvy original Scofield compositions and whatever assorted off-the-cuff improvisations that turn up on a whim. More than just a collection of tunes, they play music that embodies the spirit that has kept improvisational jazz vigorous and visceral since its start.

MARION HAYDEN AND LEGACY WITH SPECIAL GUEST KAMAU KENYATTA

Monday, 5:00 p.m. on the Absopure Waterfront Stage

Bassist Marion Hayden leads her ensemble Legacy with special featured guest Grammy®-award winning producer/pianist Kamau Kenyatta. Kenyatta, currently residing in San Diego, returns to his hometown of Detroit for this reunion with Hayden, as they are friends and musical partners since birth. Hayden and Kenyatta will co-lead this ensemble featuring original compositions and music from the jazz tradition. This quintessentially Detroit, intergenerational ensemble includes Tenor saxophonist/ flutist – Steve Wood, trumpeter – Tim Blackmon, drummer – Tariq Gardner, and alto saxophonist – Khalil Childs.



WAYNE STATE AND DETROIT. UNITED BY THE RHYTHM AND SOUL OF JAZZ.

Jazz is at the heart of Detroit's history. And, it's at the heart of ours too. That's why Wayne State University proudly sponsors the Detroit Jazz Festival and inspires students, artists and the community to keep the rhythm and soul of jazz alive.

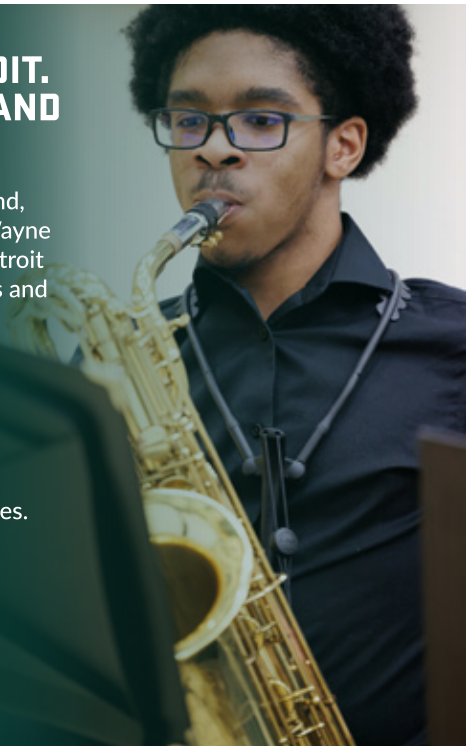


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2025 DETROIT JAZZ FESTIVAL FOUNDATION

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The Detroit Jazz Festival Foundation would like to thank the individuals below for their generosity and unwavering support of the 2025 Detroit Jazz Festival.

The Detroit Jazz Festival Foundation's mission is to foster the history and nurture the development of jazz; perpetuate Detroit's significant jazz legacy through educational and collaborative opportunities accessible to all; and sustain a world-class signature event that makes Detroit a tourist destination. Programming celebrates Detroit's rich jazz history; creates unique and engaging musical experiences; identifies and cultivates emerging and local artists while honoring established jazz legends; and infuses art into the local community. We could not fulfill our mission without the generosity of the following:

2025 ANGELS OF JAZZ

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John Henze
Meegan Holland
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