

A portrait of Joe Lovano, a man with a grey beard and mustache, wearing a brown fedora with orange and red bands, red-tinted glasses, a red t-shirt, and a light grey blazer. He is holding a tenor saxophone. The background is dark.

47TH ANNUAL
**detroit
Jazz**
FESTIVAL

SEPTEMBER 4-7, 2026
HART PLAZA

2026 DETROIT JAZZ FESTIVAL ARTIST-IN-RESIDENCE

JOE LOVANO

EARN YOUR WINGS



Honor the legacy of
our Angel of Jazz,
Gretchen C. Valade
and support the
Detroit Jazz Festival
Foundation!



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earn your wings today!





A Welcome Message From The President

CHRIS COLLINS

On behalf of our board of directors and the entire Detroit Jazz Festival Foundation team, it is my pleasure to welcome you to the 47th Detroit Jazz Festival! Even as we sprint towards our 50th, we continue to seek opportunities to enhance your experience and further our mission. The Detroit Jazz Festival Foundation team works year-round assessing, visioning, designing and ultimately activating innovative improvements on stage and off. This year, the results include an elegant refresh of the footprint driven by our mission to keep it free, keep it jazz and keep it accessible to all.

The Detroit Jazz Festival Foundation team is an assembly of notable Detroiters recognized as leaders in their field. Their world-class skills, collective experience, passion for jazz and commitment to propagating this Detroit legacy are a big part of the magic behind every Detroit Jazz Festival. Despite the plethora of diverse disciplines needed to maintain and evolve a premier international jazz festival, much like the musicians on the bandstand, we all believe our most important tools are LISTENING, COLLABORATING and serving THE MUSIC. Firstly, the team carefully evaluated every moment of the Detroit Jazz Festival experience and listened to input from patrons, artists, public safety and stakeholders. After careful thought (...and more than a few late-night brainstorming sessions) we initiated adjustments designed to enhance accessibility and reduce the distance between stages while maintaining the safety, size, scope, capacity and world-class excellence you and the artists have come to expect from the Detroit Jazz Festival...and, of course, KEEP IT FREE.

For 2026, we went old school. All three outdoor stages are built within a creatively expanded Hart Plaza footprint and our fourth indoor venue, the Gretchen C. Valade Jazz Center on the campus of Wayne State University will feature performances at both the Detroit Jazz Hall and the new Dee Dee Bridgewater's. Together, these venues showcase an endless array of international jazz performances, taking audiences on a musical journey from morning to the late-night hang. Using innovative technologies, creative engineering and the top minds in the business, we have maintained capacity and further enhanced the visual and aural experience at every stage. Patrons will find moving around the new footprint is easier and faster allowing you to catch even more sets with plenty of time for a refreshing beverage or a meal break at one of the many curated vendors onsite.

All that is just the beginning...wait 'til you dig the music!

So, strap-in and get ready for what is sure to be a special and memorable 2026 Detroit Jazz Festival (...and if you have the chance, give the DJFF Team a thumbs-up...Man, they deserve it.) We are so glad you are here.

Chris Collins

President and Artistic Director, Detroit Jazz Festival Foundation

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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 2026 Annual Detroit Jazz Festival. For over 40 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. For over four decades, dedicated supporters have worked to ensure the Detroit Jazz Festival remains the largest free jazz festival in the world. Their work has allowed many families to experience the rich jazz legacy of Detroit at no cost. 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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each Friday for free on live.detroitjazzfest.org



DTE Foundation

WE'RE JAZZED

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.

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 47 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 December of 2022. 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.



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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

MARY SHEFFIELD

On behalf of the City of Detroit, welcome to the Detroit Jazz Festival!

There may be no more perfect pairing than jazz and Detroit. This is a city that knows how to keep time, hit a note, and improvise its way to something beautiful and for one incredible weekend, our streets and stages fill with the music that has always lived in Detroit's soul.

Whether you're a lifelong fan or here to discover something new, I hope you'll do it the Detroit way with your whole heart, good company, and maybe a little dancing. Explore our neighborhoods, savor our food, and let the rhythm carry you.

To the musicians, the volunteers, and everyone who makes this festival sing, thank you. And to all of you: relax, listen close, and enjoy every glorious note.

Warmly,



Mayor Mary Sheffield



2026 Detroit Jazz Festival Poster Artist Jo Lewis

Jo Lewis is a Detroit-born visual artist. With a background rooted in both fine arts and social justice, Lewis centers storytelling and emotional resonance as vital forms of cultural preservation and liberation.

@_jo.lewis





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curing type 1 diabetes,
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the people who face it.

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FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 4

CARHARTT AMPHITHEATER STAGE

- 6:15–6:25 p.m. Dr. Valade's Brass Band Featuring Shannon Powell ●
- 7:00–8:15 p.m. Miles Electric Band
- 9:15–10:15 p.m. 2026 Artist-In-Residence Joe Lovano's Paramount Quartet, featuring Julian Lage, Asante Sante Debriano, Will Calhoun

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 5

CARHARTT AMPHITHEATER STAGE

- 1:15–2:15 p.m. Collegiate Combo Winner LoEnd Quintet
- 3:00–4:00 p.m. Jeffrey Trent ●
- 4:45–6:00 p.m. AFRICAN RHYTHMS ALUMNI QUINTET "Celebrating the Centennial of Dr. Randy Weston" T.K. Blue – saxophone/flute/musical director; Chief Baba Neil Clarke – percussion; Alex Blake – bass; Ku-umba Frank Lacy – trombone; Sharp Radway – piano
- 7:00–8:15 p.m. Ravi Coltrane Quartet: Centennial Celebration
- 9:15–10:30 p.m. Kurt Elling & Yellowjackets Celebrate Weather Report

JPMORGANCHASE STAGE

- 3:15–4:15 p.m. Borderland Ensemble ●
- 5:00–6:00 p.m. Skyler Tang
- 6:45–8:00 p.m. Jill Opal & The Bill Meyer Group ●
- 8:45–10:00 p.m. Bob James

WATERFRONT STAGE

- 2:30–3:45 p.m. University of Michigan Jazz Ensemble directed by Professor Kris Johnson and University of Michigan Jazz Trombone Ensemble directed by Professor Dennis Wilson
- 4:45–6:00 p.m. Vermilion Field (Takatsuki Jazz Street Representative Band)
- 7:00–8:15 p.m. Cyrille Aimée
- 9:00–10:15 p.m. Artemis

● Detroit Signature Series Artists presented by Rocket Companies

Gates open at 5:30 p.m. on Friday and 12:30 p.m. on Saturday. All performances are subject to change.

EARN YOUR WING

BECOME AN ANGEL OF JAZZ

The Angel of Jazz Committee expands educational programs, preserves jazz, and supports the largest, free jazz festival! By contributing \$1,000 or more, you will become an Angel of Jazz and receive:

- 2026 Limited Edition Angel of Jazz Pin
- Exclusive varsity jacket
- Special access to events throughout the year

Visit www.detroitjazzfest.org to learn more about how you can earn your wings



**detroit
Jazz
FESTIVAL**

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 6

CARHARTT AMPHITHEATER STAGE

- 1:15–2:15 p.m. Downbeat Blindfold Test with Special Guest Joe Lovano
- 3:00–4:00 p.m. The Search: Echoes of the Fallen, tribute to Karim Gideon ●
- 4:45–6:00 p.m. Gabrielle Cavassa
- 7:00–8:15 p.m. 2026 Artist-In-Residence Joe Lovano and Dave Douglas Quintet: Sound Prints Featuring: Lawrence Fields, Yasushi Nakamura and Rudy Royston
- 9:15–10:30 p.m. Take 6

JPMORGANCHASE STAGE

- 1:15–2:15 p.m. J.C. Heard JazzWeek All Stars featuring the 2026 Youth Jazz Vocal Competition Winner Ava Noecker ●
- 3:15–4:15 p.m. Dave Sharp Worlds Quartet ●
- 4:45–6:00 p.m. Catherine Russell
- 6:45–8:00 p.m. Sequoia “REDWOOD” Snyder and INNER KNOWING ●
- 8:45–10:00 p.m. Dee Dee Bridgewater with Bill Charlap ●

WATERFRONT STAGE

- 1:45–2:45 p.m. Wayne State University “Jazz Warriors” Big Band directed by Professor Vincent Chandler and Wayne State University Advanced Vocal Jazz Quartet directed by Cayla Stus
- 3:30–4:40 p.m. Luca Ciarla solOrchestra
- 5:20–6:30 p.m. 2026 Legacy Artist: Jaribu Shahid Salute to the AACM ●
- 7:15–8:25 p.m. Instant Alter featuring Natasha Agrama Clarke and Emilio Modeste
- 9:10–10:25 p.m. Vijay Iyer Trio with special guest, Adam O’Farrill

● Detroit Signature Series Artists presented by Rocket Companies

Gates open at 12:30 p.m. on Sunday. All performances are subject to change.

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MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 7

CARHARTT AMPHITHEATER STAGE

- 2:00–3:10 p.m.** Himiko Kikuchi Tottori Young Lions Trio
- 4:00–5:10 p.m.** Cindy Blackman Santana
- 6:00–7:30 p.m.** Coltrane 100 – 2026 Artist-In-Residence Joe Lovano, Melissa Aldana, Nduduzo Makathini, Linda May Han Oh, Jeff “Tain” Watts Both
Directions at Once

JPMORGANCHASE STAGE

- 1:45–2:45 p.m.** Teiku ●
- 3:30–4:45 p.m.** Roberta Gambarini and the Detroit Jazz Festival Orchestra ●
- 5:15–6:30 p.m.** Joey Alexander Trio

WATERFRONT STAGE

- 1:00–2:00 p.m.** Michigan State University Jazz Orchestral “The Bebop Spartans”
directed by Professor Rodney Whitaker
- 3:00–4:15 p.m.** The Django Festival Allstars Featuring Samson Schmitt, Ludovic Beier,
Pierre Blanchard with Special Guest Grace Kelly
- 5:00–6:15 p.m.** Ron Carter & Foursight ●

● Detroit Signature Series Artists presented by Rocket Companies

Gates open at 12:30 p.m. on Monday. All performances are subject to change.



It was impossible not to love Matt Lee! His skill, exuberance, professional work ethic and unbridled passion was something to behold. Matty was an indispensable asset at the Detroit Jazz Festival Foundation. Gretchen loved him and, as he did for so many, he used his PR skills, a lifetime of relationships and that beautiful personality to promote important events and let the world know what was hip and happening in our city.

Truly a one of a kind! We will miss his perspective, his infectious laugh, the pride and love he expressed as a father, his friendship and his love of music and people. Your essence will resonate in Detroit for generations to come.

THE ANGEL OF JAZZ STILL WATCHES OVER DETROIT.

HER PASSION LIVES ON IN EVERY MUSICIAN, EVERY NOTE,
AND EVERY AUDIENCE THAT GATHERS TO LISTEN.



THE DIRTY DOG JAZZ CAFE IS PROUD TO HONOR GRETCHEN C.
VALADE AND CARRY HER LEGACY FORWARD.

THANK YOU, GRETCHEN.



SCAN FOR
UPCOMING EVENTS



GRETCHEN C. VALADE JAZZ CENTER

at Wayne State University

GRETCHEN C. VALADE
JAZZ CENTER
WAYNE STATE UNIVERSITY

Detroit Jazz Hall and Dee Dee Bridgewater's are located inside the Gretchen C. Valade Jazz Center at Wayne State University, 4743 Cass Ave. in Midtown, 2½ miles north of Hart Plaza.

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 4

Detroit Jazz Hall (Entrance on Hancock) Doors 9:30 p.m.

10:45 p.m.—12:00 a.m. Tia Fuller featuring Shamie Fuller-Royston — “Fuller Sound”
(*Midtown After Hours Special*)

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 5

Detroit Jazz Hall (Entrance on Hancock) Doors 10:30 a.m. / 3:00 p.m.—9:30 p.m. Break / No Programming / Doors 9:30 p.m. (*Midtown After Hours Special*)

11:30 a.m.—2:30 p.m. High School Showcase — Grosse Isle High School Jazz Band, Midland High School Jazz Band, University of Detroit Jazz Orchestra, Troy Athens High School Jazz Band, Northview High School Jazz Ensemble

10:45 p.m.—12:00 a.m. Delvon Lamarr Organ Trio (*Midtown After Hours Special*)

Dee Dee Bridgewater's (Entrance on Cass Ave.) Doors 9:30 p.m.

10:45 p.m.—12:00 a.m. LoEnd Quintet featuring guest vocalists

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 6

Detroit Jazz Hall (Entrance on Hancock) Doors 10:30 a.m. / 3:00 p.m.—9:30 p.m. Break / No Programming / Doors 9:30 p.m. (*Midtown After Hours Special*)

11:30 a.m.—2:30 p.m. High School Showcase — Taylor High School Jazz Band, Utica High School Jazz Band, Jackson Northwest High School Jazz Band, Northville High School Jazz Ensemble, Meridian High School Jazz Ensemble

10:45 p.m.—12:00 a.m. Nduduzo Makhathini (*Midtown After Hours Special*)

Dee Dee Bridgewater's (Entrance on Cass Ave.) Doors 9:30 p.m.

10:45 p.m.—12:00 a.m. LoEnd Quintet featuring guest vocalists

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 7

Detroit Jazz Hall (Entrance on Hancock) Doors 10:30 a.m.

11:30 a.m.—2:30 p.m. Detroit Public Schools Community District Jazz Showcase + Tottori Jazz Mission International Jam

All performances are subject to change.



Dee Dee Bridgewater and Bill Charlap
Grammy-nominated jazz duo

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

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.

Dr. Valade's Brass Band Featuring Shannon Powell – Friday at 6:14 p.m. on the Carhartt Amphitheater Stage

Jeffrey Trent – Saturday at 3:00 p.m. on the Carhartt Amphitheater Stage

Borderland Ensemble – Saturday at 3:15 p.m. on the JPMorganChase Stage

Jill Opal & The Bill Meyer Group – Saturday at 6:45 p.m. on the JPMorganChase Stage

The Search: Echoes of the Fallen, tribute to Karim Gideon – Sunday at 3:00 p.m. on the Carhartt Amphitheater Stage

J.C. Heard Jazzweek All-Stars – Sunday at 1:15 p.m. on the JPMorganChase Stage

Dave Sharpe Worlds Quartet – Sunday at 3:15 p.m. on the JPMorganChase Stage

2026 Legacy Artist: Jaribu Shahid Salute to the AACM – Sunday at 5:20 p.m. on the Waterfront Stage

Sequoia "REDWOOD" Snyder and INNER KNOWING – Sunday at 6:45 p.m. on the JPMorganChase Stage

Dee Dee Bridgewater with Bill Charlap – Sunday at 8:45 p.m. on the JPMorganChase Stage

Teiku – Monday at 1:45 p.m. on the JPMorganChase Stage

Roberta Gambarini and the Detroit Jazz Festival Orchestra – Monday at 3:30 p.m. on the JPMorganChase Stage

Ron Carter & Foursight – Monday at 5:00 p.m. on the Waterfront Stage

ARTISTS
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Detroit Jazz Festival Foundation

NEW JAZZ INFUSION

Detroit Jazz Festival Foundation is proud to partner with the Fred and Barbara 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, 11:30 a.m. at the Detroit Jazz Hall in the Gretchen C. Valade Jazz Center at Wayne State University





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Detroit Jazz Festival Foundation

NEXT GENERATION DETROIT JAZZ INITIATIVE

Detroit has always shaped the future of jazz, and today we are helping shape its next generation.

The **NextGen Program** provides emerging jazz musicians with live performance opportunities, professional mentorship, and global exposure. Through monthly **Jazz from the Cellar** and **After-Hours** sessions at the Gretchen C. Valade Jazz Center, young artists gain real-world experience while sharing their talent with audiences in Detroit and around the world.

This program is generously supported by **Carolyn Wanzo, Family & Friends**.

Now, we are building a **\$100,000 NextGen Fund** initiated by Carolyn Wanzo to ensure these opportunities continue for generations to come. This support will provide sustainable funding for artist development, performance opportunities, mentorship, and professional promotion.

Our work is not done. We need your help.

Your investment will empower young artists, strengthen Detroit's jazz legacy, and help transform promise into lifelong careers.

Join us. Invest in NextGen. Help the future of jazz rise right here in Detroit.



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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.

Himiko Kikuchi Tottori Young Lions Trio – Monday at 2:00 p.m. on the Carhartt Amphitheater Stage

Detroit Public Schools Community District Jazz Showcase + Tottori Jazz Mission International Jam – Monday at 11:30 a.m. at the Detroit Jazz Hall in the Gretchen C. Valade Jazz Center at Wayne State University

TOTTORI JAZZ FESTIVAL in JAPAN

This festival began in 2011 in Tottori City, Japan. Tottori is located in western Japan, on the coast of the Sea of Japan.

The prefecture is known for its sand dunes.

Sixteen years have passed since then, and the festival has become a popular annual event held throughout the year.

The festival's theme is "Jazz and Art."

During the festival, visitors can enjoy live jazz performances held throughout the city and view art exhibitions.

"Jazz Workshops for Children" are also held.

The organizers continue their efforts to promote jazz culture from Tottori.



The 17th Tottori JAZZ 2027
April 29(International Jazz Day) & November 3



47TH ANNUAL detroit Jazz FESTIVAL

**DETROIT JAZZ HALL &
DEE DEE BRIDGEWATER'S**
located inside the
Gretchen C. Valade Jazz Center
at Wayne State University

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



HART PLAZA

detroitjazzfest.org



DETROIT RIVER



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A MESSAGE FROM CAROLYN WANZO



Thank you to my Detroit Jazz Festival friends and family!! In support of the Jack Hughes (Haus of Hughes) Centennial Celebration, we helped raise \$20,500 to help fund a cure for Type 1 diabetes!

Very Proud of our NextGens who provided the music created by Ali Jackson, Program Curator!



Detroit Jazz Festival Foundation

2026 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 LoEnd Quintet, winner of the 2026 Detroit Jazz Festival Foundation Collegiate Combo Competition – Saturday at 1:15 p.m. on the Carhartt Amphitheater Stage; Saturday & Sunday at 10:45 p.m. at Dee Dee Bridgewater's in the Gretchen C. Valade Jazz Center at Wayne State University



SEEKING
OUT AND
PRESENTING
NEW TALENT



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
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continue the legacy of social impact within our community.
We look forward to bringing out 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.



Detroit Jazz Festival Foundation

2026 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 Cafe, 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 Ava Noecker, winner of the 2026 Detroit Jazz Festival Foundation Youth Jazz Vocal Competition with the J.C. Heard JazzWeek All Stars – Sunday at 1:15 p.m. on the JPMorganChase Stage



Left to right: Ezra Mankouche, Taylor Peterson, Ava Noecker, Pallas Bibbs, Grace Robinson, Alica Gross

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Paxahau Events is a proud partner of the Detroit Jazz Festival, serving as its operations and production team since 2011.

Paxahau is an independent, Detroit-based live events production team, offering full-service production, booking, operations, and promotions for festivals, concerts, and boutique experiences.

We produce over 70 live events annually, including our flagship annual festival Movement, held in Hart Plaza and one of the longest-running electronic music events in the world. Our team also curates and manages the entertainment programming for the Detroit Auto Show.

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Detroit Jazz Festival Foundation

J.C. HEARD JAZZWEED@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 featuring the 2026 Youth Jazz Vocal Competition Winner Ava Noecker – Sunday at 1:15 p.m. on the JPMorganChase Stage





2026 DETROIT JAZZ FESTIVAL
ARTIST-IN-RESIDENCE

JOE LOVANO

Grammy®-winning saxophonist, composer, producer, and educator Joe Lovano is one of the most influential and innovative artists in contemporary jazz. A Grammy® winner for *52nd Street Themes* and a 14-time Grammy® nominee, Lovano has earned countless honors from *DownBeat*, *JazzTimes*, and the Jazz Journalists Association, including Musician of the Year, Tenor Saxophonist of the Year, Jazz Album of the Year, and multiple Triple Crown awards. Born in Cleveland, Ohio, he studied at Berklee College of Music, where he later received an honorary doctorate. He currently serves as the Gary Burton Chair in Jazz Performance and is a founding faculty member of Berklee's Global Jazz Institute.

Over a remarkable career spanning more than five decades, Lovano has released dozens of acclaimed recordings, including 25 albums as a leader for Blue Note Records and a celebrated series of releases for ECM Records, including his Trio Tapestry projects and collaborations with Enrico Rava, Marcin Wasilewski, and Jakob Bro. His most recent recording, *Paramount Quartet*, showcases his continued artistic evolution. Continually exploring new creative frontiers, Lovano remains a fearless improviser, composer, bandleader, and educator whose artistry continues to shape the future of jazz.

Friday at 9:15 p.m. on the Carhartt Amphitheater Stage

2026 ARTIST-IN-RESIDENCE JOE LOVANO'S PARAMOUNT QUARTET, FEATURING JULIAN LAGE, ASANTE SANTE DEBRIANO, WILL CALHOUN

Sunday at 7:00 p.m. on the Carhartt Amphitheater Stage

2026 ARTIST-IN-RESIDENCE JOE LOVANO AND DAVE DOUGLAS QUINTET: SOUND PRINTS FEATURING: LAWRENCE FIELDS, YASUSHI NAKAMURA AND RUDY ROYSTON

Monday at 6:00 p.m. on the Carhartt Amphitheater Stage

COLTRANE 100 – 2026 ARTIST-IN-RESIDENCE JOE LOVANO, MELISSA ALDANA, NDUDUZO MAKHATHINI, LINDA MAY HAN OH, JEFF "TAIN" WATTS BOTH DIRECTIONS AT ONCE

DR. VALADE'S BRASS BAND FEATURING SHANNON POWELL

Friday, 6:14 p.m. on the Carhartt Amphitheater Stage

Known as “The King of Treme,” Shannon Powell is one of New Orleans’ most celebrated drummers and percussionists. Internationally recognized for his masterful technique and deep connection to traditional jazz, Powell has performed and recorded with Harry Connick Jr., Wynton Marsalis, Diana Krall, Dr. John, Marcus Roberts, John Scofield, Preservation Hall Jazz Band, and many others. His recordings include collaborations with Ellis Marsalis, Nicholas Payton, Donald Harrison, and the Blind Boys of Alabama. A respected bandleader, educator, and clinician, Powell continues to preserve and advance New Orleans’ rich musical traditions while inspiring audiences and musicians around the world.



MILES ELECTRIC BAND

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

Founded in 2010 by Emmy and Grammy®-winning producer and drummer Vince Wilburn Jr., nephew of Miles Davis, the Miles Electric Band (M.E.B.) celebrates the groundbreaking electric era of the jazz legend while pushing the music forward. Featuring Miles Davis alumni alongside today’s leading jazz artists, the ensemble has performed at major festivals and concert halls worldwide. Their Sony Legacy release *That You Not Dare To Forget* includes previously unreleased Miles Davis performances alongside contributions from jazz greats including Ron Carter, Marcus Miller, Stanley Clarke, John Scofield, and Vernon Reid. In 2026, M.E.B. honors the Miles Davis Centennial with an all-star concert celebrating his enduring musical legacy.



TIA FULLER FEATURING SHAMIE FULLER-ROYSTON – “FULLER SOUND”

**Friday, 10:45 p.m. in the Detroit Jazz Hall located inside the
Gretchen C. Valade Jazz Center at Wayne State University**

Grammy®-nominated saxophonist, composer, educator, and Mack Avenue recording artist Tia Fuller is one of today’s most dynamic voices in jazz. A Berklee College of Music professor, Fuller first gained international recognition touring worldwide as a featured soloist with Beyoncé before establishing herself as an acclaimed band leader. Her Grammy®-nominated album *Diamond Cut* highlighted her artistry alongside jazz luminaries including Dave Holland, Jack DeJohnette, and Terri Lyne Carrington. With *Fuller Sound*, she joins her sister Shamie Fuller-Royston for a powerful musical collaboration rooted in virtuosity, creativity, and family tradition.



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JEFFREY TRENT

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

Growing up in the Detroit music scene, Jeffrey Trent draws inspiration from a long tradition of Detroit jazz music. He also draws inspiration from soulful gospel music along with the techno and hip hop traditions. He has free-flowing melodies with tight grooves that still have a spiritual element to it, as well. His sound embodies a modern jazz feel that even the most traditional jazz fans will love!



BORDERLAND ENSEMBLE

Saturday, 3:15 p.m. on the JPMorganChase Stage

Led by trumpeter and composer Austin Di Pietro, the Borderland Ensemble is a cross-border jazz collective rooted in the shared culture of the Windsor–Detroit region. Drawing inspiration from two cities, two countries, and one river, the ensemble performs original music grounded in hard bop and post-bop while embracing contemporary influences. Their work explores the complexities of creating art across an international border, transforming division into creative possibility. Making its Detroit Jazz Festival debut, the ensemble celebrates the release of its first album, *Live at Mackenzie Hall Jazz* (2026). The group features Alex Colista, Tom Bartelmay, Aya Sekine, Trevor Lamb, and Zachary McKinney.



AFRICAN RHYTHMS ALUMNI QUINTET

“Celebrating the Centennial of Dr. Randy Weston” T.K. Blue – saxophone/flute/musical director; Chief Baba Neil Clarke – percussion; Alex Blake – bass; Ku-umba Frank Lacy – trombone; Sharp Radway - piano

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

In celebration of the 2026 centennial birthday of the late Dr. Randy Weston, members of his “African Rhythms” band have rejoined forces to pay tribute to their leader. They honour Weston’s integration of African aesthetics with the spirit of jazz that was cultivated by piano legends like Duke Ellington, Thelonius Monk, Count Basie, Nat King Cole, and Earl Hines.

The ensemble captures the unique sounds of Weston’s compositions and arrangements, made possible by the Alumni Ensemble’s members and their long-term working relationships with Dr. Weston. The Ensemble is led by T.K. Blue (saxophone/flute/musical director) and includes Chief Baba Neil Clarke (percussion), Alex Blake (bass), Ku-umba Frank Lacy (trombone), and Sharp Radway (piano).



VERMILION FIELD (TAKATSUKI JAZZ STREET REPRESENTATIVE BAND)

Saturday, 4:45 p.m. on the Waterfront Stage

Formed in 2005, Japan's Vermilion Field blends modern jazz with funk, Latin, gospel, progressive rock, African music, and other global influences shaped by the members' studies at Berklee College of Music. The quintet performs original compositions by each member, creating a vibrant and expressive sound they describe as "burning saudade." With six studio albums and a recently released live recording celebrating the band's 20th anniversary, Vermilion Field has become a regular favorite at Takatsuki Jazz Street and Tokyo's Sumida Street Jazz Festival while also performing internationally. Selected from seven finalists, the group proudly represents Takatsuki Jazz Street in this year's Detroit Jazz Festival cultural exchange.



SKYLER TANG

Saturday, 5:00 p.m. on the JPMorganChase Stage

Skyler Tang is a trumpet player and composer born and raised in the San Francisco Bay Area. Her quartet features pianist William Schwartzman, bassist John Murray, and drummer Ethan Oliver. Prioritizing intuition, intellect, and beauty, the quartet delivers a dynamic performance of original compositions that captivates listeners.



JILL OPAL & THE BILL MEYER GROUP

Saturday, 6:45 p.m. on the JPMorganChase Stage

The Bill Meyer Group welcomes vocalist Jill Opal as she brings her versatile musical talents to the jazz stage. A graduate of Eastern Michigan University with a degree in Vocal Performance, Opal has earned acclaim for performances spanning classical, pop, R&B, gospel, hip-hop, and techno, including appearances with the International Lyric Academy in Italy. She joins veteran pianist Bill Meyer, a Detroit Jazz Festival mainstay since its inaugural year, alongside an all-star ensemble featuring Butter Hawkins, Takashi Iio, Roland Chandler, Nate Topo, and Allen Dennard. Together, they deliver an energetic performance blending jazz tradition with diverse musical influences, spontaneity, and exceptional artistry.



RAVI COLTRANE QUARTET: CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION

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

Grammy®-nominated saxophonist, bandleader, and composer Ravi Coltrane has built an acclaimed career spanning more than three decades as both a leader and collaborator. He has released six recordings under his own name and performed with legendary artists including McCoy Tyner, Elvin Jones, Kenny Barron, Geri Allen, Jack DeJohnette, and Terence Blanchard. The son of jazz icons John and Alice Coltrane, Ravi has also produced and performed on his mother's celebrated album *Translinear Light*. He also leads preservation efforts for the John Coltrane Home in New York and oversees important reissues of his parents' historic recordings.



CYRILLE AIMÉE

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

Vocalist Cyrille Aimée has earned international acclaim for her captivating voice, adventurous improvisation, and genre-defying artistry. Raised in France in a multilingual household, she developed her love of jazz while sneaking out to the famed Django Reinhardt Festival in Samois-sur-Seine. After moving to New York, she performed with Roy Hargrove, appeared at the Apollo Theater, and collaborated with Wynton Marsalis on a Stephen Sondheim tribute. Her Grammy®-nominated interpretation of "Marry Me a Little" showcased her remarkable storytelling. Now based in New Orleans, Aimée continues to blend jazz, Caribbean rhythms, and contemporary influences on her latest recording, *À Fleur de Peau*.



BOB JAMES

Saturday, 8:45 p.m. on the JPMorganChase Stage

Bob James, joined by his working quartet, performs a wide-ranging selection of best-loved music from his five-decade career.



ARTEMIS

Saturday, 9:00 p.m. on the Waterfront Stage

Founded by pianist and composer Renee Rosnes in 2017, ARTEMIS is a multinational ensemble of acclaimed jazz virtuosos featuring Rosnes, trumpeter Ingrid Jensen, saxophonist Nicole Glover, bassist Noriko Ueda, and drummer Allison Miller. Named after the Greek goddess, the group showcases original compositions and fresh arrangements with a modern, collaborative sound. Their Blue Note release *Arboresque* was named one of *The Guardian's* Top 10 Jazz Albums of 2025, while NPR praised the ensemble's "killer line-up" following its Tiny Desk Concert. ARTEMIS has been voted *DownBeat's* Jazz Group of the Year (2023–2025) and the Jazz Journalists Association's Mid-Size Ensemble of the Year (2024–2026).



KURT ELLING & YELLOWJACKETS CELEBRATE WEATHER REPORT

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

Kurt Elling & Yellowjackets Celebrate Weather Report is a thrilling collaboration between two jazz powerhouses, blending the iconic music of Weather Report with bold reinterpretations and original artistry. Grammy®-winning vocalist Kurt Elling, known for his captivating baritone and improvisational brilliance, joins forces with Yellowjackets, jazz fusion legends redefining the genre for over four decades. This dynamic performance honors Weather Report's groundbreaking legacy while blending reimagined classics with new explorations, driven by the innovative spirit of Elling and Yellowjackets.



DELVON LAMARR ORGAN TRIO

Saturday, 10:45 p.m. in the Detroit Jazz Hall located inside the Gretchen C. Valade Jazz Center at Wayne State University

Delvon Lamarr Organ Trio—or as it is sometimes referred to, DLO3 —specializes in the lost art of “feel-good music.” The trio is formed by collecting a unique blend of guitarists and drummers worldwide. They leave you with a feeling of wonder caused by seeing something surprisingly beautiful and unforgettable for their fans at every show. The trio started from humble beginnings in 2015 with the goal of creating feel-good music to heal the world. Since then, the band has released several Billboard charting albums and toured the world to sold-out venues. DLO3 showcases the kind of raw, bottomless talent you have to see to believe.



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THE SEARCH: ECHOES OF THE FALLEN, TRIBUTE TO KARIM GIDEON

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

"The Search: Echoes of the Fallen" features original compositions by Karim Tabu Gideon as well as selections from the incredible songbook he spent a lifetime cultivating. "The Search" formed as a collective after Karim's passing to protect and proliferate the tradition of the living culture and spiritual practice that is Detroit Jazz, in tribute to the musical lineage of Dr. Teddy Harris, Harold McKinney, and Marcus Belgrave and so many others. They are committed to the continuation and integrity of the Detroit Sound through Karim's legacy. Special thanks to Margaret Gideon, Makibla Gideon, and the rest of the Gideon family for their generosity and permission in keeping Karim's memory alive and thriving.



DAVE SHARP WORLDS QUARTET

Sunday, 3:15 p.m. on the JPMorganChase Stage

Recognized in the *JazzTimes* Critics' Poll, the Dave Sharp Worlds Quartet fuses jazz with musical traditions from around the globe through original compositions and adventurous improvisation. Led by bassist and composer Dave Sharp, the ensemble features oud, violin, electric bass, synthesizer, and world percussion while drawing inspiration from Armenia, India, Turkey, Egypt, Ukraine, Bulgaria, and Greece. The quartet has performed at festivals and venues across the United States and Europe, including Switzerland's JazzAscona Festival, the Detroit Jazz Festival, Concert of Colors, Ann Arbor Summer Festival, and Lansing Jazz Fest. Their vibrant performances celebrate cultural diversity through innovative, globally inspired jazz.



LUCA CIARLA SOLORKESTRA

Sunday, 3:30 p.m. on the Waterfront Stage

Italian violin alchemist Luca Ciarla creates his music with a loop pedal, his voice, keyboards and several toy instruments. He performs all his orchestra score, playing the violin also like a guitar, a cello or a percussion. In this imaginative musical landscape Luca sings, whistles, plays other instruments or adds new improvisations; music is continuously evolving into a dazzling solOrkestra. The program features original compositions imbued with Mediterranean atmospheres, with a minimalist flavour, along with unusual arrangements of the Italian tradition. Luca Ciarla's music has its roots in contemporary jazz but it is coloured with refined influences from ethnic and classical music, giving life to a fascinating and unpredictable new acoustic sound."



GABRIELLE CAVASSA

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

Gabrielle Cavassa is an acclaimed vocalist and composer signed to Blue Note Records whose intimate, expressive style has quickly established her as one of jazz's brightest rising stars. She gained international recognition through her collaboration with saxophonist Joshua Redman on his 2023 album *where are we*, earning praise from *DownBeat* as "a star in the making." A California native, Cavassa refined her artistry in the Bay Area before continuing her musical journey in New Orleans. Winner of the 2021 Sarah Vaughan International Jazz Vocal Competition, she toured extensively with Redman before signing with Blue Note. Her label debut is scheduled for release in 2026.



CATHERINE RUSSELL

Sunday, 4:45 p.m. on the JPMorganChase Stage

Grammy®-nominated vocalist Catherine Russell joins acclaimed pianist Sean Mason for *My Ideal*, a stunning collection of voice-and-piano duets celebrating the rich traditions of jazz and American popular song. Russell, praised for her soulful interpretations, has earned international acclaim through eight solo albums and collaborations with artists including David Bowie, Paul Simon, Steely Dan, and Cyndi Lauper. Mason, one of jazz's brightest young pianists, brings remarkable artistry and historical insight to the partnership. Their collaboration blends timeless elegance with fresh creativity, creating an intimate and unforgettable musical experience.



2026 LEGACY ARTIST: JARIBU SHAHID SALUTE TO THE AACM

Sunday, 5:20 p.m. on the Waterfront Stage

Detroit bassist and multi-instrumentalist Jaribu Shahid is a pioneering force in creative and avant-garde jazz whose career spans more than five decades. A versatile performer on bass violin, bass guitar, and bass ukulele, Shahid has collaborated with jazz luminaries including Sun Ra, Roscoe Mitchell, James Carter, David Murray, Geri Allen, Anthony Braxton, Martha Reeves, and the Art Ensemble of Chicago. A longtime member of Roscoe Mitchell's Sound Ensemble and Note Factory, he has helped shape the evolution of contemporary improvised music. A 2022 Kresge Artist Fellow, Shahid leads this special tribute celebrating the enduring legacy and groundbreaking contributions of the Association for the Advancement of Creative Musicians (AACM).



SEQUOIA “REDWOOD” SNYDER AND INNER KNOWING

Sunday, 6:45 p.m. on the JPMorganChase Stage

Blending acoustic and electric textures across the ensemble, there is a fusion of R&B, soul, gospel, funk, and hip-hop within each song while remaining deeply rooted in the jazz tradition. Also paying homage to Snyder's greatest influences, such as Geri Allen and Stevie Wonder, you will hear a touch of everything from the Black music canon — a portrait of her musical journey. There's surely something for everybody.



INSTANT ALTER FEATURING NATASHA AGRAMA CLARKE AND EMILIO MODESTE

Sunday, 7:15 p.m. on the Waterfront Stage

Instant Alter brings Future Fusion to Detroit. A refreshing blend of jazz, soul, rock, storytelling, poetry, and beyond. Performing music from their first two releases, as well as brand new adventures in sound. Featuring Emilio Modeste (Stanley Clarke, Cindy Blackman), Natasha Agrama (Clarke, Kamasi Washington), Brandon Rose (Julius Rodriguez, Ledisi), Miguel Russell (Theo Croker) and special guest Evan Garr on violin.



DEE DEE BRIDGEWATER WITH BILL CHARLAP

Sunday, 8:45 p.m. on the JPMorganChase Stage

Two of the most highly respected figures in the world of jazz — Dee Dee Bridgewater and Bill Charlap — document their critically acclaimed, sold-out live concerts on their first collaborative album, *Elemental*. Bridgewater and Charlap curate a repertoire that only they can present: exploring the deep understanding of jazz tradition alongside impeccable phrasing and a once-in-a-generation dynamic range, bringing a level of sophistication that is sure to be considered a masterpiece for generations to come.



VIJAY IYER TRIO WITH SPECIAL GUEST, ADAM O'FARRILL

Sunday, 9:10 p.m. on the Waterfront Stage

Composer and pianist Vijay Iyer is one of the most influential voices in contemporary jazz, celebrated for his innovative artistry and emotionally resonant music. A four-time *DownBeat* Jazz Artist of the Year, MacArthur Fellow, and three-time Grammy®-nominee, Iyer has released more than 30 acclaimed albums while collaborating across jazz, classical, film, dance, and poetry. Joining the trio is acclaimed trumpeter Adam O'Farrell, praised by *The New York Times* as one of jazz's leading trumpeters. Together with bassist Matt Brewer and drummer Jeremy Dutton, this all-star ensemble delivers fearless improvisation, remarkable interplay, and boundary-pushing contemporary jazz.



TAKE 6

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

TAKE 6 (Claude McKnight, Mark Kibble, Joel Kibble, Dave Thomas, Alvin Chea and Khristian Dentley), heralded by Quincy Jones as the “baddest vocal cats on the planet!,” is the quintessential acappella group and the model for vocal genius. They are the preeminent and best acappella group in the world. With 10 Grammy® Awards, 10 Dove Awards, a Soul Train Award, they are Members of the Gospel Music Hall of Fame. This musical phenomenon has six virtuosic voices united in crystal clear harmony, against a backdrop of syncopated rhythms, innovative arrangements, and funky grooves that bubble into an intoxicating brew of gospel, jazz, R&B, and pop.



NDUDUZO MAKHATHINI

Sunday, 10:45 p.m. in the Detroit Jazz Hall located inside the
Gretchen C. Valade Jazz Center at Wayne State University

South African pianist, composer, scholar, and Blue Note recording artist Nduduzo Makhathini is one of contemporary jazz's most compelling voices. His music weaves together African spirituality, Zulu traditions, and modern improvisation while drawing inspiration from McCoy Tyner, Abdullah Ibrahim, and Bheki Mseleku. Viewing music as a vehicle for memory, healing, and transformation, Makhathini creates deeply immersive performances rooted in cultural storytelling. His acclaimed Blue Note album *The Myth We Choose* explores how music shapes identity and collective history. Makhathini has collaborated with Wynton Marsalis, Shabaka Hutchings, and Black Coffee, performing at Carnegie Hall, Jazz at Lincoln Center, Newport Jazz Festival, and major international venues.



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TEIKU

Monday, 1:45 p.m. on the JPMorganChase Stage

Teiku transforms rare ancestral Jewish Passover melodies into adventurous contemporary jazz rooted in improvisation and collective exploration. Founded by Chicago pianist Josh Harlow and Detroit percussionist Jonathan Barahal Taylor after discovering their families shared generations-old musical traditions, the quartet is completed by bass clarinetist Jason Stein and bassist Jaribu Shahid. Together they weave these melodies through infectious grooves, layered textures, mixed meters, and electronic elements while preserving their spirit of gathering and remembrance. Named after an Aramaic word meaning “unanswered question,” Teiku embraces discovery through spontaneous collaboration, creating immersive performances that honor tradition while pushing the boundaries of modern creative music.



HIMIKO KIKUCHI TOTTORI YOUNG LIONS TRIO

Monday, 2:00 p.m. on the Carhartt Amphitheater Stage

Himiko Kikuchi has been active in the Japanese jazz scene since around 1970, appearing at events such as the Montreux Jazz Festival. In 2011, she launched “Tottori JAZZ,” and since 2019, she has been organizing exchange programs with the Detroit Jazz Festival. In 2025, her album *Flying Beagle* became a hit, and in August 2026, she performed at the City Pop Festival held in London. In November 2026, her other past albums will also be released worldwide on LP.



THE DJANGO FESTIVAL ALLSTARS FEATURING SAMSON SCHMITT, LUDOVIC BEIER, PIERRE BLANCHARD with Special Guest GRACE KELLY

Monday, 3:00 p.m. on the Waterfront Stage

Step into a night that feels lifted from a Parisian café and goes roaring into the 21st century. The Django Festival Allstars deliver a musical experience bursting with spirit, swing, and soul in what *The Wall Street Journal* calls “the best jazz show in town.” Led by guitarist Samson Schmitt, son of gypsy jazz legend Django Schmitt, this all-acoustic ensemble of international virtuosos radiates joy and passion through blazing guitar riffs, soaring violin, dazzling accordion, and deep, grooving bass. The result is an electrifying energy, performing modern original music with some Django favorites, that brings audiences to their feet. Whether you’re a longtime Django fan or discovering this sound for the first time, the Allstars promise an unforgettable evening of new music and a look back at Django favorites.



ROBERTA GAMBARINI AND THE DETROIT JAZZ FESTIVAL ORCHESTRA

Monday, 3:30 p.m. on the JPMorganChase Stage

Three-time Grammy®-nominated vocalist Roberta Gambarini has captivated audiences worldwide since emerging at the 1998 Thelonious Monk International Jazz Vocal Competition. Renowned for her extraordinary technique and emotional depth, she has performed at Carnegie Hall, the Hollywood Bowl, Newport and Monterey Jazz Festivals, and leading venues across Europe and North America. Gambarini has collaborated with jazz legends including Herbie Hancock, Roy Hargrove, James Moody, Hank Jones, Dave Brubeck, Paquito D'Rivera, and Jon Batiste. Her numerous honors include multiple Jazz Journalist Association awards and France's prestigious title of Chevalier des Arts et des Lettres.



CINDY BLACKMAN SANTANA

Monday, 4:00 p.m. on the Carhartt Amphitheater Stage

Cindy Blackman Santana is a virtuoso drummer, composer, and bandleader celebrated for seamlessly blending jazz, rock, and improvisational music. Renowned for her technical mastery and fearless creativity, she has performed with legendary artists including Pharoah Sanders, Joe Henderson, Cassandra Wilson, Lenny Kravitz, Santana, and many others. She also leads acclaimed projects including the Cindy Blackman Santana Group, Another Lifetime, and Spectrum Road. Her latest album, *Coherence* (2026), showcases her evolving artistry through adventurous compositions and dynamic rhythms. In 2023, she performed on ESPN's Monday Night Football anthem featuring Chris Stapleton and Snoop Dogg.



RON CARTER & FOURSIGHT

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

Ron Carter is among the most original, prolific, and influential bassists in jazz. He has recorded over 2200 albums and has a Guinness world record to prove it! A former member of the legendary Miles Davis Quintet, he appears on countless landmark recordings while maintaining a prolific career as a bandleader with the Ron Carter Foursight Quartet, Trio, Nonet, and Great Big Band. Carter has collaborated with artists ranging from Aretha Franklin and Billy Joel to A Tribe Called Quest. A three-time Grammy® winner, acclaimed author, and educator, he has received seven honorary doctorates and numerous international honors celebrating his extraordinary contributions to music.



JOEY ALEXANDER TRIO

Monday, 5:15 p.m. on the JPMorganChase Stage

Three-time Grammy®-nominated pianist and composer Joey Alexander returns to the stage with music from his new Mack Avenue Records album, *Celestial Keeper*. At 23, Alexander has grown into a distinctive bandleader and composer, known for lyrical improvisation, melodic depth, and a sound that connects modern jazz with the spirit and rhythm of his Indonesian roots. *Celestial Keeper* features new original works alongside inspired interpretations of classic songs, opening a fresh chapter in his evolving musical journey. Expect a set filled with dynamic interplay, soulful expression, and deeply imaginative jazz from one of the most compelling young artists in contemporary music.



CELEBRATING THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF JOHN "JAMMIN" COLLINS

Through music, John brought people together, carried the spirit of Detroit around the world, and made an international impact that will continue to inspire generations.

*With love and gratitude,
The Family of John "Jammin" Collins*

Detroit Jazz Festival Foundation

2026 INDIVIDUAL DONORS

The Detroit Jazz Festival Foundation gratefully recognizes and thanks the individuals listed below for their generosity, dedication, and unwavering support of the 2026 Detroit Jazz Festival.

Individual donors are essential to preserving the Festival's tradition of free admission while supporting educational programs, emerging artists, and the celebration of Detroit's rich jazz heritage. As costs continue to rise, their philanthropic support helps ensure that future generations can experience the transformative power of jazz. We could not fulfill this mission without the generosity of the following individuals:

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