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APRIL 21-29, 2025

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Welcome to the 2025 Charleston Jazz Festival!

We are thrilled to have you join us for this incredible celebration of jazz—its history, its innovation, and its power to connect us all.

This year's festival is especially exciting as we expand to nine days of world-class performances, educational programs, and community outreach initiatives. Through partnerships with the Gaillard Center, Spoleto Festival USA, the College of Charleston, and Charleston Music Hall, we have curated an unforgettable lineup featuring legendary artists, emerging talent, and special collaborations that honor the rich legacy of jazz while pushing its boundaries forward.



A big thank you to our supporters, sponsors, and all of you who have decided to attend one or hopefully several performances. We rely on all of you to present this wonderful music.

At Charleston Jazz, we believe in the transformative power of music. This festival is more than a series of concerts—it's an opportunity to experience the joy, soul, and improvisational spirit of jazz in a way that brings our community together. We are especially committed to accessibility and education, ensuring that the next generation of jazz musicians and fans can be inspired by this extraordinary art form.

Whether you are a lifelong jazz lover or discovering its magic for the first time, we hope this festival moves you, surprises you, and leaves you wanting more.

Enjoy the music, and welcome to the 2025 Charleston Jazz Festival!

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Tatjana".

Tatjana Beylotte
Executive Director



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Terence Blanchard's Fire Shut Up in My Bones: Opera Suite in Concert

Monday, April 21, 7pm Charleston Gaillard Center

This unique concert presentation of *Fire Shut Up in My Bones* brings Blanchard's band, The E-Collective, together with the double GRAMMY-winning Turtle Island Quartet, visual artist Andrew F. Scott, and special guest vocalists Justin Austin (baritone) and Adrienne Danrich (soprano), for an unforgettable evening. With Scott's immersive projections, the concert offers audiences a rare glimpse into Blanchard's creative vision, the opera's narrative themes, and the universal search for meaning, identity, and connection.

This monumental work, based on the memoir by New York Times columnist Charles M. Blow, tells the story of a young man's journey to find his identity amidst trauma, adversity, and inner conflict. Set in the rural South, the opera follows Charles as he navigates complex themes of family, masculinity, and self-acceptance. Blanchard's powerful score, which fuses jazz, blues, and classical elements, captures the emotional weight and raw humanity of Blow's experiences. This historic work—The Metropolitan Opera's first by an African American composer—has been hailed as a cultural watershed moment, inviting new audiences into the world of opera with its relatable themes and groundbreaking storytelling.

About Terence Blanchard

Terence Blanchard is a world-renowned jazz trumpeter, composer, and bandleader whose career spans over four decades. Renowned for his artistry and innovation, Blanchard is a boundary-breaking force in jazz, opera, and film, crafting music that addresses both historical and contemporary American tragedies. An eight-time Grammy winner and two-time Oscar nominee, Blanchard has scored over 60 films, collaborated extensively with Spike Lee, and made history as the first Black composer to have an opera performed at the Metropolitan Opera with *Fire Shut Up in My Bones*. TheaterMania hailed him as "the most exciting American composer working in opera today."



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College of Charleston Faculty Jazz Ensemble

Tuesday, April 22, 7pm Simons Recital Hall, College of Charleston

The College of Charleston Faculty Jazz Ensemble brings together a diverse group of accomplished musicians who are active in the local, regional, and international jazz scenes. Given their various musical commitments, it is a rare and special occasion when they perform as a group. Their innovative and masterful interpretations of original compositions and jazz standards make this a truly exceptional program. See bios on page 15.

Robert Lewis – Saxophones
 David Heywood – Flute and EWI
 Tyler Ross – Guitar
 Ron Wilttrout – Drums
 Frank Duvall – Bass



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Savor Every Note: An Evening of Conversation, Fine Dining & Jazz

Wednesday, April 23, 6pm **The Establishment**

This intimate evening pairs an exceptional three-course dining experience at the Establishment with a live performance by the Richard White Trio, led by one of Charleston's most dynamic jazz pianists and composers, Richard White. Guests are welcome to ask questions and interact with the musicians, creating a dynamic and engaging jazz experience.

Richard White – Piano
Ron Wilttrout – Drums
Jake Holwegner – Bass

About Richard White

Richard White is one of the most dynamic pianists and composers in the Charleston area. A native of St. Louis, Missouri, he studied classical piano from age 7 to 17 and was introduced to jazz by his father before high school. White has performed in Victoria, British Columbia and recently completed a successful international jazz tour. Richard has opened for many famous artists such as Branford Marsalis, Will Downing, Brian McKnight, and Alex Bugnon, and has played locally with the Charleston Jazz Orchestra, Charlton Singleton Quintet and Charleston Symphony, featuring vocalist Ellis Hall.

Mark Sterbank Quartet Ballads, Blues & Swing

Thursday, April 24, 6pm American Theater



The Charleston Jazz Festival Lowcountry Jazz Day kicks off with the Mark Sterbank Quartet and their stirring program of original music, Ballads, Blues & Swing. Joining Mark on this special evening will be Charleston favorites, Jonathan Lovett on piano, Brett Belanger on bass, and from Augusta, Ga, Edwin Hamilton on drums.

Mark Sterbank – Tenor Saxophone
Jonathan Lovett – Piano
Brett Belanger – Bass
Edwin Hamilton – Drums

About Mark Sterbank

Mark Sterbank is Professor of Music teaching Jazz Studies and Saxophone at Charleston Southern University. He performs regularly with the Charlton Singleton Quintet and Quentin Baxter Quintet, the Charleston Jazz Orchestra and the South Carolina Jazz Masterworks Ensemble.

Kenney/Khayat/Baxter Trio Impressions of Soul

Thursday, April 24, 8pm American Theater



Led by Thomas Kenney on guitar, Tim Khayat on electric bass, and CL Baxter on drums, this unique trio explores the timeless music of Motown and Soul through the lens of modern jazz. They weave through the tapestry of exciting rhythmic and new harmonic versions of well loved songs by Stevie Wonder, Donny Hathaway, Otis Redding and more!

Culminating their experiences as members of Doom Flamingo, Ranky Tanky, Motown Throwdown and the Gullah Collective, this powerhouse group brings their passion and soul to Lowcountry Jazz Night at the Charleston Jazz Festival!

Thomas Kenney – Guitar
Tim Khayat – Electric Bass
CL Baxter – Drums

About Thomas Kenney

Multi-genre guitarist Thomas Kenney has called Charleston home since 2000, drawn to its rich musical culture and vibrant performance scene. Blending jazz, soul, funk, and indie rock, he seamlessly weaves between genres, using the guitar as his vehicle for improvisation and soulful expression.



The Artistry of Jazzmeia Horn with special guest Tonya Nicole **Friday, April 25, 7pm Charleston Music Hall**

In collaboration with the Charleston Music Hall, Grammy-nominated Jazzmeia Horn, renowned for her dynamic vocal range and captivating stage presence, will grace the stage, bringing her unique blend of soulful, expressive jazz to the festival. Her artistry transcends traditional jazz boundaries while reflecting influences from legends like Sarah Vaughan, Ella Fitzgerald, and Nancy Wilson.

About Jazzmeia Horn

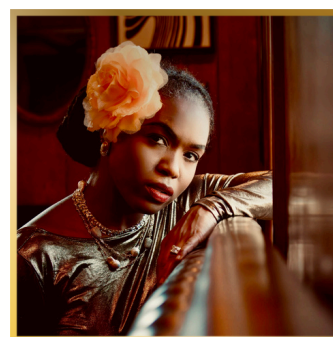
Born in Dallas, TX, Jazzmeia Horn is a 3x Grammy-nominated vocalist, songwriter, and composer. She is the winner of the Sarah Vaughan International Jazz Vocal Competition and the Thelonious Monk Institute International Jazz Competition.

Tonya Nicole's Four Women

The evening will commence with a tribute celebrating Nina Simone, Billie Holiday, Erykah Badu, and Lauryn Hill, setting the tone for a night of exceptional music that celebrates the heart and soul of jazz.

About Tonya Nicole

Tonya Nicole is a powerhouse R&B/Jazz recording artist and actress with the renowned PURE Theatre. She was named Charleston's R&B Artist of the Year 2024, solidifying her place as a true artist. Now, she prepares to unveil her highly anticipated jazz album, *TRIBE*, set for release in early 2026; a heartfelt tribute to her roots and the unwavering support of her community.



Tonya Nicole – Voice
Jonathan Lovett – Piano
LaVonta Green – Bass
JT Rollerson – Drums



Havana Night

Paquito D'Rivera with the Charleston Jazz Orchestra

Saturday, April 26, 5pm & 8pm Charleston Music Hall

Get ready for an extraordinary night of music as the Charleston Jazz Orchestra proudly presents Grammy Award-Winner Paquito D'Rivera, a Cuban-American virtuoso known for his mastery of the alto saxophone and clarinet. With a career spanning decades and a repertoire that blends traditional Latin jazz with contemporary influences, D'Rivera brings a unique and electrifying energy to the stage. His performances are celebrated for their infectious rhythms, lyrical melodies, and innovative arrangements that showcase his unparalleled talent and deep-rooted passion for jazz.

About Paquito D'Rivera

Paquito D'Rivera, a Havana-born musical prodigy, has won 5 Grammy Awards and 11 Latin Grammy Awards. He is celebrated for his mastery of both Latin jazz and classical composition. He began his career at a young age, performing with the National Theater Orchestra at age 10 and later becoming a soloist with the Cuban National Symphony at 17. D'Rivera co-founded the innovative ensemble Irakere, blending jazz, rock, classical, and Cuban music, and later joined Dizzy Gillespie's United Nation Orchestra, earning a Grammy in 1991. With over 30 solo albums, he has performed with prestigious orchestras worldwide and composed numerous works, including collaborations with Yo-Yo Ma. His compositions, published by Boosey and Hawkes, reflect his diverse musical influences, ranging from Afro-Cuban rhythms to classical and jazz, earning him accolades such as the 2007 Guggenheim Fellowship and Composer-In-Residence at Caramoor. Learn more at paquitodrivera.com.

Charleston Jazz Orchestra Music Director's Note



I couldn't be more excited to have the great Paquito D'Rivera join the Charleston Jazz Orchestra! He is one of the true legends of Cuban jazz, as important to that genre as John Coltrane is to American jazz. I personally discovered his music while in college (way back in the '90's!) when I started seriously studying the various Latin jazz styles. His saxophone and clarinet playing, as well as his musical conception, spoke to me on a very deep level, and I've been listening to his music regularly ever since. I sometimes feel I need to pinch myself to make sure it's true that I get to perform with one of my absolute heroes!

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'RL'.

Robert Lewis
Music Director, Charleston Jazz Orchestra

Song List

***not in order and subject to change**

A Night in Tunisia

Composed by Dizzy Gillespie
Arranged by Michael Philip Mossman

Chucho

Composed & Arranged by Paquito D'Rivera

Cicuta Tibia

Composed by Paquito D'Rivera
Arranged by Chico O'Farrill

Como Fue

Composed by Beny Moré
Adapted by Frank Duvall

I Remember Diz

Composed & Arranged by Paquito D'Rivera

Libertango

Composed by Astor Piazzolla
Arranged by Pedro Giraudo

Preludio #3

Composed by Roberto Panzera
Arranged by Daniel Freiberg

Samba for Carmen

Composed by Paquito D'Rivera
Arranged by Chico O'Farrill

To Brenda With Love

Composed by Paquito D'Rivera
Arranged by Wayne Wallace

Walkin'

Composed by Miles Davis



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Charleston Jazz Orchestra

Musician Bios



Robert Lewis, CJO Music Director, Saxophone

This musical polymath plays four instruments for the Charleston Jazz Orchestra and, in his early years, became accomplished on both the piano and bassoon. He began his musical journey at the age of eight. Now Director of Jazz Studies at the College of Charleston, Robert is a triple threat—composing, performing, and teaching jazz on a full-time basis.



Jon Phillips, Alto Saxophone, Flute and Clarinet

Jon started playing music when he was five. By the time he turned 20, Jon realized that journalism was boring and math was frustrating, so he picked up the saxophone, flute, and clarinet. He is also a self-taught arranger. In Jon's words, "I owe a great debt of gratitude to all my Charleston musician friends who have instructed me along the way." His attention is drawn to smiling faces in the CJO audience.



Jonathan Kammer

Alto and Baritone Saxophone, Flute and Clarinet

Jonathan Kammer is a freelance saxophonist, flutist, clarinetist and grand-prize winner of the Fischhoff Chamber Music Competition. He has performed across North America and plays throughout the Lowcountry with the Charleston Symphony Orchestra, Charleston Jazz Orchestra, Hilton Head Symphony, Piccolo and Spoleto Festivals, as well as many other regional acts.



Mark Sterbank

Tenor + Soprano Saxophone, Clarinet, Flute

In the Sterbank household, early musical instruction began with piano lessons. However, after 3 years, nine-year-old Mark discovered his passion for the saxophone when he picked up his uncle's instrument. Following in his mother's footsteps, he chose a career in music education. Today, Mark is a Full Professor of Jazz Studies and Saxophone at Charleston Southern University.



Lauren Meccia, Vocalist & Tenor Saxophone

Lauren serves as an instructor of Jazz Studies at the University of South Carolina, where she previously directed jazz ensembles at both the main campus and UofSC Aiken. She is the founder of the Central Savannah River Area New Horizons Band for senior adults in Aiken, SC, and co-directs the Congaree New Horizons Band in Columbia, SC. Lauren holds a BA in Music Education with a Certificate in Saxophone Performance and a Master of Music in Saxophone Performance, both from the USC

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Jon Cobb, Baritone Saxophone

Raised by his grandparents in Parkers Ferry, John discovered the saxophone at 14—mainly because a cousin played it, allowing them to share the instrument. Initially, he had no plans to pursue music as a career, but a simple flyer for the music program at Bronx Community College changed his path. Today, John is not only a passionate musician but also a mentor to new and young principals. Music and education remain cornerstones of his life, and his advice to aspiring musicians is simple: “Keep practicing...”



Chuck Dalton, Trumpet

Hailing from Hopkinsville, KY, Chuck’s musical roots are steeped in the rich gospel and soul traditions of rural Kentucky. His career includes performances with legends like Frank Sinatra, Elton John, Tony Bennett, and Sammy Davis Jr., among many others. In Charleston, Chuck is a regular with Jennifer & Brad Moranz Productions, co-leads the high-energy party band 17 SOUTH, and often appears as a trumpet substitute for the Charleston Symphony’s pop concerts.



Kyle Lane, Trumpet

Kyle is a versatile trumpet player, composer, arranger, and the General Manager of the Charleston Symphony Orchestra. A Denver native, he earned his BA in Music from the Oberlin Conservatory of Music and his MA from the Mannes College of Music. Kyle has performed with renowned artists such as Doc Severinsen, Jon Faddis, and Johnny Mathis. His arranging credits include works for the Charleston Symphony and the Grammy-winning group Ranky Tanky.



Cameron Handle, Trumpet

A Charleston native, Cameron attended Laing Middle, Wando High, the University of Georgia, and the College of Charleston. She’s been inspired by Louis Armstrong, Wynton Marsalis, and Trombone Shorty, among others. Over the years, she’s performed with Adele, Michael Bolton, Seal, Wycliffe Gordon and more. When she’s not on stage or caring for her two young children, Cameron gives lessons at local middle schools and Wando High.



Kevin Hackler, Trumpet

Kevin hails from Galax, VA, the heart of bluegrass country. A passionate enthusiast of Big Band music, he says, “The style played on Duke Ellington’s Live at the Blue Note doesn’t get any better than that.” His introduction to Big Band came at age 16 under the mentorship of trumpet legend Flea Campbell. “Flea taught me 90% of what I know about Big Band section playing,” By day, he channels his precision and dedication into his career as a business and litigation attorney.

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Keith Pritner, Trombone

A Chicago native, Keith studied trombone under the renowned Jim Pugh at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. His impressive career includes a stint as Lead Trombone with the Buddy Rich Big Band and performances with celebrated artists such as Jeff Coffin, Andy Martin, Randy Brecker, John Fedchock, and Marvin Hamlisch. He has also played with the Maynard Ferguson Alumni Big Band. A dedicated educator and clinician, Keith recently relocated to Charleston, where he now serves as the Band Director at Cane Bay Middle School in Summerville.



Gavin Smith, Trombone

The music of Ella Fitzgerald and Louis Armstrong inspired Gavin to pick up a horn and begin his jazz journey. Former Charleston Jazz Orchestra music director, Charlton Singleton, was Gavin's sixth-grade band director, and current member Ken Foberg became Gavin's lifelong teacher, mentor, and friend. Smith attended Berklee College of Music. A highlight in his career was recording "Turn It Up" with Hootie & The Blowfish.



Bill Miller, Trombone

Originally from Chicago, Bill Miller attended Northern Illinois University to study music, where he was a member of the acclaimed 2 O'Clock Jazz Ensemble. Bill had the incredible opportunity to tour twice with Dizzy Gillespie. He is the Principal Trombonist with the Summerville Orchestra and plays in the Joe Clarke Big Band at Forte Jazz Lounge in downtown Charleston. Bill's passions are playing music, enjoying time with his wife and their five grandchildren, traveling, and loving all things in the South.



Jonathan Yeager, Bass Trombone

Jon grew up in southern California with parents who supported his musical endeavors. He studied with studio great George Roberts during his high school years. Yeager earned a bachelor's degree in music education from Humboldt State University, and he holds master's and doctoral degrees in performance from the University of North Texas. Jonathan teaches band at Zucker Middle School.



Abdiel Iriarte, Piano

Hailing from Venezuela, Iriarte has made waves in the Charleston music scene as a performer, educator, and recording artist. A highly sought-after pianist, Abdiel headlined the 2022 Charleston Jazz Festival, combining the sound of Afro-Venezuelan-Cuban rhythms with a taste of modern jazz. He performs regularly at Forte Jazz Lounge.

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Tyler Ross, Guitar

Hailing from Neenah, WI, Tyler attributes his strong work ethic and deep passion for music to his Midwestern roots. He discovered his love for the guitar at age 12 and recalls, "As soon as I picked up the guitar, I was writing songs." Tyler refined his craft through studies at the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point and Western Illinois University. Now a member of the College of Charleston Jazz Faculty, he shares his expertise by teaching jazz combo, guitar ensemble, and jazz repertoire classes.



Frank Duvall, Bass

Frank's musical roots are steeped in country, bluegrass, and gospel—genres that he acknowledges have shaped his musical journey. Over the years, Frank has shared the stage with an impressive roster of artists, including Dizzy Gillespie, Buddy Greco, Bill Eckstine, Marian McPartland, Bob Alberti, Buddy DeFranco, Harry Allen, Scott Hamilton, John Colianni, and Bill Charlap. He is on the College of Charleston Jazz Studies faculty.



Calixto Oviedo, Drums

Born in Cuba, Calixto Oviedo's career spans 38 years. In the mid-90's, Oviedo became an independent musician and relocated to Sweden, where he became Europe's drummer of choice on bands and groups playing all genres, from classical jazz to timba. He's toured with the Buena Vista Social Club and Afro Cuban All Stars.



Gino Castillo, Percussion

An Ecuadorian native and a drummer since the age of 5, Gino Castillo's music has taken him around the world. After studying at conservatories in Havana, Cuba, Gino spent some years playing as a solo artist in New York City and has taught at the Berklee College of Music. His skills and passion for Cuban jazz have earned him the title of Jazz Artist of the Year multiple times. Now settled here in Charleston, Gino performs with his group, The Cuban Cowboys.

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Big Chief Donald Harrison Quartet

Sunday, April 27, 5pm Circular Congregational Church

Presented in collaboration with Spoleto Festival USA and our “Jazz is Community” partnership, this performance features the incomparable Big Chief Donald Harrison Quartet from New Orleans. A National Endowment for the Arts Jazz Master and cultural ambassador, alto saxophonist Donald Harrison masterfully blends traditional New Orleans sounds with modern jazz, funk and more, creating a style as vibrant and dynamic as the city he calls home and as broad as jazz gets.

Donald Harrison – Alto Saxophone

Dan Kaufman– Piano

Nori Naraoka– Bass

Joe Dyson – Drums

Bark Like Thunder, Roll Like Lightning

**A Conversation About Building Community Through Culture Followed by
Big Chief Donald Harrison Quartet, in performance**

Tuesday, April 29, 6pm Fox Music House

Join us for an intimate night with Donald Harrison, Big Chief of Congo Square Nation.

- 6pm – Screening of “Guardians of the Flame,” by Oscar-winning director Jonathan Demme and writer Daniel Wolff, a powerful documentary on creativity, survival, and culture in post-Katrina New Orleans.
- 7pm – Interview with Harrison, led by Larry Blumenfeld (Jazz Curator, Spoleto Festival USA), exploring his legendary career and dedication to music education.
- 8pm – A live performance by the Big Chief Donald Harrison Quartet.

A celebration of music, culture, and community you won’t want to miss!

This performance and the related education programs are made possible by the Oliver S. and Jennie R. Donaldson Charitable Trust and Hilton C. Smith Jr., and the Byron Fellowship Educational Foundation.

About Big Chief Donald Harrison

When Donald Harrison was 21, Art Blakey chose him to play alto saxophone in the storied Jazz Messengers band, one of the music's greatest laboratories. Harrison had already played with another legendary drummer, Roy Haynes. When pianist Eddie Palmieri sought the perfect small ensemble to express his Afro-Cuban jazz concept, he recruited Harrison. When Chris Wallace—then a teenager dreaming of hip-hop stardom, soon to be known as Biggie Smalls—sought to find his flow, he took informal lessons from Harrison. When members of Herbie Hancock's pioneering funk band, Headhunters, revived their sound, they called Harrison, as did the jazz elders who now tour in the celebrated band, The Cookers.



Soon after leaving New Orleans for New York City, Harrison's composition "New York Second Line" proposed a seamless and singular blend of his hometown's rhythms with modern-jazz sensibility. Later, his "Nouveau Swing" concept erased the lines separating jazz, pop, hip-hop, funk, and soul. More recently, his "Quantum Jazz" moved jazz "from a two-dimensional state into a four-dimensional state," Harrison says, based on both hard science and daring artistry. By now, Harrison is a towering jazz figure. In New Orleans, where he returned some 30 years ago, he's literally towering on Mardi Gras morning, dressed in an 8-foot-tall, 6-foot-wide feathered-and-beaded suit and accompanied by "queens," "spy boys" and others.

As Big Chief of Congo Square Nation, he extends the tradition of his father, Donald Sr., and of Afro New Orleans Cultural Groups who embody ideals of resistance, beauty, power and community organization, always to clapped-out and hand-drummed beats and syncopated chants. "This was first music that entered my consciousness," he once told me. "But I didn't get the connection between the jazz I was playing and that culture until I moved back. When I heard that again—the chanting, and the rhythm behind that chant—I started hearing Blakey's drums in the back of my head. I thought, 'Wow, this is all starting to make sense.' I stopped thinking of music in boxes." On bandstands and classrooms around the world, as performer and educator, he has opened the minds of generations to similar realizations.

There is no better artist and culture bearer than Donald Harrison to express the intent of "Jazz is Community," the collaborative initiative of Charleston Jazz and Spoleto Festival USA. With his quartet, he dissolves time-bound eras and stylistic categories into a personal sound of far-reaching resonance. "Bark Like Thunder, Roll Like Lightning," our April 29th program, draws its title from the sort of chant Harrison declaims as Big Chief—channeling the passion and cadences of artists like Charlie Parker, Art Blakey, Biggie Smalls, and others—and meant as a call to gather, to commune, to celebrate and dream.

—Larry Blumenfeld, Jazz Curator, Spoleto Festival USA

Charleston's Jazz Legacy

Charleston, SC holds a deep and influential place in the history of jazz, with roots tracing back to the city's rich musical and cultural heritage. As a major port city, Charleston was a melting pot of African, Caribbean, and European traditions, fostering a vibrant musical scene long before jazz emerged as a distinct genre. The Gullah-Geechee people, descendants of enslaved Africans in the Lowcountry, played a crucial role in shaping the rhythmic and melodic foundations of jazz through spirituals, work songs, and call-and-response traditions.

By the early 20th century, Charleston was home to a thriving jazz scene, with musicians performing in dance halls, theaters, and social clubs. The city's own dance, "The Charleston," became a worldwide sensation in the 1920s, further cementing its place in jazz history. Notable musicians from Charleston, such as Jenkins Orphanage Band alumni, carried the city's influence to national and international stages, helping to define the sound of early jazz.



Charleston Jazz: Honoring the Past, Inspiring the Future

Founded in 2008, Charleston Jazz is dedicated to preserving and celebrating Charleston's rich jazz heritage through world-class performances and education. Our vision is to positively impact lives through music in a collaborative community that keeps jazz thriving.

Live performances are central to our mission, featuring renowned musicians through the Charleston Jazz Orchestra, Charleston Jazz Festival, Art of Jazz, and more. Equally important is our commitment to jazz education. The Charleston Jazz Academy nurtures the next generation by offering lessons, ensembles, masterclasses, and scholarships, ensuring that all students have access to music education.

Through outreach programs, we bring jazz to schools, community centers, and public spaces, inspiring creativity, discipline, and a deeper appreciation for this American art form. By fostering mentorship and accessibility, we ensure that jazz continues to thrive for generations to come.

Your Support Makes Jazz Education Available for the Next Generation



When you give to Charleston Jazz, you're not just supporting jazz music—you're investing in culture, education, and a lasting legacy.

- Inspire the Next Generation – Through the Charleston Jazz Academy, scholarships, and school outreach programs, we provide students with opportunities to learn, grow, and thrive. For example, our Festival performers, the Donald Harrison Quartet, are visiting a local high school and lead a masterclass for our Academy students, offering invaluable mentorship and real-world inspiration. In the past two years alone, we have awarded nearly \$160,000 in scholarships, ensuring that talented young musicians have access to high-quality music education regardless of financial barriers. On average, 50-60% of our students receive scholarship support. These programs not only develop musicianship but also foster creativity, confidence, and discipline—equipping students with skills that will benefit them for a lifetime.
- Bring world-class jazz to Charleston – From the Charleston Jazz Orchestra to the Charleston Jazz Festival, your support ensures that legendary and emerging artists continue to perform and enrich our community.

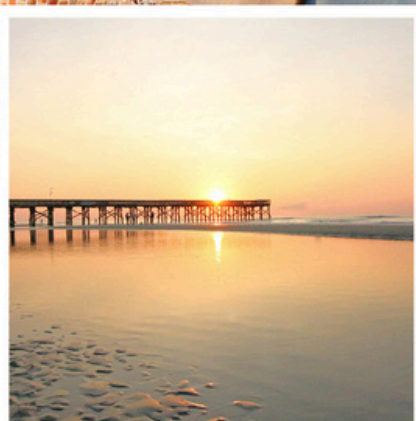
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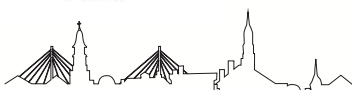


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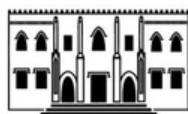


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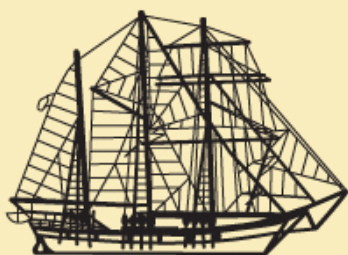
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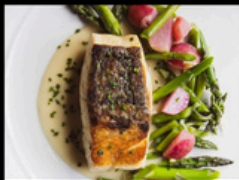
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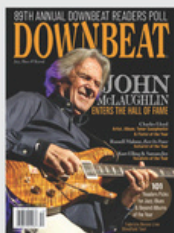


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