

MONTCLAIR JAZZ FESTIVAL®

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JAZZ HOUSE KiDS Announces 2017 Montclair Jazz Festival Lineup, Sponsors + 2 Weeks of Pre-Festival Events

Saturday, August 12th, 12 noon to 9:00 pm in Nishuane Park



(Montclair, NJ-July 20, 2017) – **Montclair Jazz Festival** is back, with a new two-week footprint of concerts and special events leading up to the single biggest one-day happening for New Jersey’s rich cultural arts town of Montclair.

Produced by the acclaimed music education organization JAZZ HOUSE **KiDS**, which celebrates its 15th anniversary in 2017, the “No Tickets Required” **8th Annual Montclair Jazz Fest** kicks off nine hours of world-class jazz for thousands of elated music fans on **Saturday, August 12th** in Nishuane Park. **The Bravitas Group and Silver Family Foundation** returns as Presenting Sponsor. The event will also once again be livestreamed in its entirety so that music lovers around the globe don’t miss out on this grand event!

Right after directing the **Newport Jazz Festival** in early August, Montclair Jazz Festival Artistic Director, bassist

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Christian McBride, leads the stage action for the Montclair Jazz Festival with Mistress of Ceremonies, actor **S. Epatha Merkerson**; and WBGO's **Gary Walker**. This year's all-star headliners on the Bravitas Main Stage include the NEW **Dee Dee Bridgewater & Memphis Soulphony**; **A Christian McBride Situation**; and the **Cyrus Chestnut Trio**.

Louis Prima Jr. and the Witnesses will perform two rousing sets on the **Family Jazz Discovery Zone Stage**. The world-renowned jazz superstars share the spotlight with festival favorites **the Ted Chubb Band**, **the Jazz House Collective**, The Centennial Project and more than 200 multi-generational performers **ranging in age from 12 to 70** in **10 award-winning JAZZ HOUSE KiDS student ensembles and vocal groups**. The unique array of musicians and exceptional festival experience all come together under Jazz House Kids' far-reaching mission to bring America's original musical art form to the community and use jazz as an exciting teaching tool to mentor and apprentice young, emerging artists.

THE FUN STARTS NOW! TWO-WEEK FESTIVAL FOOTPRINT

Leading up to Montclair Jazz Festival, special activities are planned throughout the summer that encompass all business centers of town.

Thursday, July 27

- The **Gallery at Hillside Square**, in partnership with JAZZ HOUSE KiDS and the Montclair Jazz Festival, presents **Jazz in Focus**, an exhibit of three noted jazz photographers: **Richard Conde**, **Patrick Hilaire** and the late **Ed Berger**. The exhibit runs through October 27.

Friday, July 28

- **Christian McBride spins Old School Funk + Soul** at the hippest dance party of the summer. Tickets are \$15 in advance and \$20 at the door. [Friends of the Festival](#) get in free: www.montclairjazzfestival.org. @18 Label (8:00PM–12AM)

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Saturday, August 5

- **Jazz Across Montclair** – select town merchants will donate a portion of their day's proceeds to the Montclair Jazz Festival in recognition of JAZZ HOUSE KIDS' contributions to the town. Jazz House student ensembles perform in seven locations (2:00 pm-10 pm) across town including Montclair's Center Stage on Church Street. For more information and times, visit www.montclairjazzfestival.org.

July 31 – August 10

- **Mid-Day Summer Concert + Symposium Series** curated by festival artistic director **Christian McBride** and featuring special jazz guests alongside JAZZ HOUSE KIDS' acclaimed faculty.
2:30-3:30 PM @Cali School of Music's Leshowitz Hall at Montclair State U.
7/31 Jazz House Teaching Artists sponsored by Ronald McDonald House Charities New York Tri-State Area
8/1 Jazz House Teaching Artists sponsored by City National Bank
8/2 Rachel Z + Christian McBride sponsored by Gia Maione Prima Foundation
8/3 Kenny Rampton sponsored by The Bravitas Group/The Silver Family Foundation
8/4 Jazz House Collective sponsored by the Wellmont Theater and MC Hotel
8/7 Jazz House Alumni sponsored by Arctic Glacier
8/8 Christian McBride Symposium sponsored by Montclair Fund for Women
8/9 Charles Tolliver + Billy Hart sponsored by North Coast Brewing Co.
8/10 Dee Dee Bridgewater + Christian McBride sponsored by Clara Maass Medical Center

The guest artists will also conduct master classes for more than 160 students at the **Jazz House Summer Workshop**, Jazz House Kids' nationally recognized summer program.

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These events, as well as a **post-Festival jam session party** (LEAD) at **Egan & Sons** (9:30 pm to close) in West Orange, continue to lay the groundwork for JAZZ HOUSE **KIDS** and its community partners to establish an annual destination festival in Northern New Jersey.

DAY OF FESTIVITIES:



The Montclair Jazz Festival is a fun-filled day with entertainment for the entire family. The **Family Jazz Discovery Zone Stage** features performances by **Louis Prima Jr.** and the **Witnesses**, the **Jazz House Adult Ensemble** and **Jazz House Alumni Ensemble**. “Zone” activities, a collaboration among **Jazz House Kids** and partners **Montclair Public Library** and **Montclair Art Museum**, will feature a host of kid-friendly art activities for the younger set and their parents, including **WEBOP®**, a Jazz at Lincoln Center program; kid-friendly food vendors; and music-related story books read by festival headliners. www.montclairjazzfestival.org/#!/family-jazz/cq53

Also returning to the festival is the popular **Beer Garden**, sponsored by **North Coast Brewing Co.**, which donates 100% of the proceeds to support the JAZZ HOUSE **KIDS Music + Education Fund**. Donations to this fund help close the gap in access to music education in schools and communities across New Jersey.

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MONTCLAIR JAZZ FESTIVAL & JAZZ HOUSE KIDS

The Montclair Jazz Festival is the brainchild of jazz vocalist and recording artist **Melissa Walker**, with creative direction from her husband, Christian McBride. Walker is the president and founder of JAZZ HOUSE **KIDS**, a Montclair-based arts education and performance nonprofit that has gained a national reputation. Every year, JAZZ HOUSE **KIDS** performances reach 25,000 people through 80 community concerts and the Montclair Jazz Festival, the organization's flagship musical and community engagement program held each August.



JAZZ HOUSE **KIDS** works closely with 1,500 students each year at its Jazz House facility in Montclair, in underserved schools, and at its Jazz House Summer Workshop. According to Walker, the organization is committed to providing access, inclusion and innovative programming for young people from all walks of life. In fact, Jazz House Kids provides nearly 40% of its student body with tuition assistance to see its mission flourish.

"We are proud that the Montclair Jazz Fest has metamorphosed into one of the largest and greatest free summer events in New Jersey," said Walker. "Along with the Montclair Film Festival in the spring, the Montclair Jazz Fest has become part of the fabric of our community and a world-class event, solidifying this town's standing as a thriving arts and cultural destination all year round. An ambitious undertaking, the 'no tickets required' Montclair Jazz Festival, which attracts thousands of music lovers and families from across the region, would not be possible without the tremendous support of our sponsors, community and government partners, and generous individuals who believe in Jazz House Kids' mission."

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MEET THE TALENT:



This year, the Montclair Jazz Festival welcomes back NEA Jazz Master and internationally renowned vocalist **Dee Dee Bridgewater**. Few entertainers have ever commanded the depth of artistry that Bridgewater has shown in multiple mediums. Over the course of her stellar career, Bridgewater has won a Tony Award for Best

Featured Actress in a Musical for “The Wiz”; received three GRAMMY Awards; and earned France’s top honor Victoire de la Musique for Best Jazz Vocal Album. The artist’s latest release, *Dee Dee’s Feathers* (Okeh/Sony Masterworks, 2015), is a collaboration with Irvin Mayfield & the New Orleans Jazz Orchestra that combines fresh interpretations of Crescent City classics like “Big Chief” and “St. James Infirmary” with new, original compositions (“Congo Square,” “C’est Ici Que Je T’aime”).

Bridgewater returns to her Memphis soul roots and brings her brand new 10-piece band, **Dee Dee Bridgewater and & Memphis Soulphony** to the Montclair Jazz Festival stage, including **Barry Campbell** on bass, **Curtis Pulliam** on trumpet, **Bryant Lockhart** on saxophone, **Charlton Johnson** on guitar, **Sharisse Norman** and **Shontelle Norman-Beatty** on background vocals, **Carlos Sargent** on drums and **Farindell "Dell" Smith** on piano/organ.



Jazz House Kids’ Artistic Chair and Montclair Jazz Festival Artistic Director **Christian McBride** is a five-time GRAMMY Award-winning bassist, composer and arranger. He has been one of the most important and omnipresent figures in the jazz world for more than 25 years. McBride is the new Artistic Director of the Newport Jazz Festival, and he hosts and produces “The

Lowdown: Conversations With Christian” on SiriusXM satellite radio. McBride also hosts

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National Public Radio's "Jazz Night in America," a weekly radio show and multimedia collaboration between WBGO, NPR and Jazz at Lincoln Center that showcases outstanding live jazz from across the country.

Tapping into the discovery and spirit of jazz improvisation, **A Christian McBride Situation** is McBride's ongoing electro-funk project with a potpourri of talented musicians including **DJ Logic** on turntables, **Rachel Z** on keyboards, **Antoinette Henry** on vocals, **Adam Rogers** on guitar and **Bernard Purdie** on drums. McBride plays both acoustic and electric bass. The Situation was born 12 years ago at the Monterey Jazz Festival, when a couple of McBride's band members couldn't make the gig. His manager quipped, "It looks like we have a Christian McBride situation." McBride thought that sounded cool, so he began using the name for any eclectic group of musicians he brings together, and it always results in a wildly avant-garde sound of street beats and improv.



Keyboardist **Cyrus Chestnut** has earned a reputation for his skillful versatility, his ability for blending sounds, and for unabashedly bringing gospel into the club performances he gives. And despite his sense of playful showmanship, he takes jazz very seriously and believes that jazz has great staying power. First call pianist for the Dizzy Gillespie Big Band and both The Lincoln Center and Carnegie Hall Jazz Orchestras, Cyrus Chestnut absorbed years of experience as a sideman with Betty Carter, Wynton Marsalis, and scores of other great players before stepping into the spotlight as a charismatic and thought-provoking composer/bandleader. Blending contemporary and traditional jazz with gospel and hints of Latin and samba, Time Magazine raves that, "what makes Chestnut the best jazz pianist of his generation is a willingness to abandon

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notes and play space.” The Montclair Jazz Festival will be bringing the virtuoso pianist

together with his swinging, soulful trio featuring **Michael Hawkins** on bass and **Neal Smith** on drums.



Trumpeter **Ted Chubb** delivers a fresh approach to modern jazz, drawing the listener in with an individual voice, striking originals, and reimagined classics. “Gratified Never Satisfied,” Chubb’s new release, establishes him as a singular creative force in contemporary jazz, an artist steeped in the music’s legacy

who is pointing squarely toward its future. Chubb’s diverse career has brought him to clubs and jazz festivals around the globe. Splitting time between NYC and Lucerne, Switzerland, Chubb continues to serve as Director of the Jazz House Summer Workshop and Special Projects. Joining him on the Montclair Jazz Festival stage will be **Bruce Williams** on alto, **Seth Johnson** on guitar and **Tom DiCarlo** on bass.



The Jazz House Collective, directed by **Nathan Eklund**, includes nationally and internationally recognized jazz artists who serve as faculty members for the JAZZ HOUSE **KIDS** Summer Workshop. One hundred years ago this year, many iconic jazz artists were born, influencing the musical landscape forever.

The Collective presents the **Centennial Project**, celebrating the music of jazz luminaries including Ella Fitzgerald, Thelonious Monk, Buddy Rich and Lena Horne.



Louis Prima, Jr. takes a page from his father’s playbook, bringing new energy and a 21th century attitude to the famed Prima Swing! His father, Louis Prima, was born in 1910, and became a legendary songwriter, bandleader and musician known as one of the greatest contributors toward modern music

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of all time. His son, the iconic singer, songwriter and

entertainer, will be featured in the Family Jazz Discovery Zone with the Witnesses. For the second year, the **Gia Maione Prima Foundation** has generously awarded the **Louis Prima Jazz Scholars Fund for Jazz House Kids** to help students and families in need at the Jazz House and in struggling schools.



The future of jazz will be showcased as more than 160 students from the JAZZ HOUSE **KiDS Summer Workshop** perform throughout the day. Tomorrow's rising stars come from all across New Jersey and seven other states, and internationally from London and the Dominican Republic.



Celebrated actor **S. Epatha Merkerson** returns as festival **Mistress of Ceremonies**. She has won a Golden Globe, Emmy, SAG Award, an Obie, Gracie Allen Award, and four NAACP Image Awards. She has also received two Tony Award nominations and an IFP Spirit Award nomination. Currently starring as Sharon Goodwin, Hospital Chief of Services, on NBC's "Chicago Med," she is best known for her 17-season run as Lieutenant Anita Van Buren on NBC's "Law & Order."



WBGO Jazz 88.3 FM's on-air host **Gary Walker** will serve as the stage host, providing an "inside scoop" on the many talented performers.

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MEET THE SPONSORS

The Montclair Jazz Festival is presented by **The Bravitas Group/Silver Family Foundation**, with lead support from the **National Endowment for the Arts**, **The MC Hotel**, **Wellmont Theater**, **New Jersey Department of State, Division of Travel & Tourism** and **Clara Maass Medical Center/RWJBarnabas Health**. The festival is also supported by **North Coast Brewing Co.**, **Arctic Glacier**, **Schumacher Chevrolet**, **Van Dyk Family Wines**, **Van Dyk Health Care at Montclair**, and **Stone Center of Bridgewater**. Festival partners include the **County of Essex**, New Jersey; **Montclair Township** and **Montclair Community Services**; **Montclair Public Library**; **Montclair Art Museum**; and media sponsors **WBGO 88.3 FM**, **Jazz Times**, **The Montclair Times**, **Montclair Local**, **Baristanet** and **TapIntoMontclair**.

MEET THE MUSIC FANS



Friends of the Festival

The Montclair Jazz Festival attracts more than 6,000 people from across the Tri-State area. As a **Friend of the Festival**, music lovers can help the Montclair Jazz Fest remain a no-tickets-required day of world-class music and summer fun and get some great perks. For more

information, visit www.montclairjazzfestival.org.

Transportation

Getting to the Montclair Jazz Festival has never been easier. The **FREE Montclair Jazz Festival Shuttle** will stop at several key parking points throughout **Montclair** and **West Orange**. An expanded **bike valet sponsored by Diamond Cycle** will offer free, convenient parking for those traveling by two wheels.

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At the Park: Eats, Shopping and Activities

Jazz fans are invited to bring friends and family, lawn chairs, blankets, and picnic baskets. In addition to the North Coast Beer Garden and Family Jazz Discovery Zone, **food and artisan craft vendors** are part of the offerings in the historic, 17-acre park. (Directions: <http://bit.ly/Q4wiry>).

This year, festival attendees will be encouraged to visit the **Front Line for the Arts** tent (near the Jazz Discovery Zone) to pick up some information about the National Endowment for the Arts and the great works it helps fund. A collaborative effort of area artists, arts organizations, and arts supporters, including Jazz House Kids, the Montclair Art Museum, and Studio Montclair, its purpose is to show wide-spread support to Washington for keeping NEA funding at its current levels. NEA funding comprises a mere .012% of the overall budget and costs every American 46 cents per year. The NEA is a major sponsor of the Montclair Jazz Festival.

To **volunteer**, or for more information, visit www.montclairjazzfestival.org and the Montclair Jazz Festival Facebook page, email info@jazzhousekids.org or call 973-744-2273. For information about Jazz House Kids, visit www.jazzhousekids.org.

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About Jazz House Kids

Now in its 15th year, *Jazz House Kids* helps students gain an “artistic edge” through music, mentoring, education and apprenticeship. By offering pre-professional, year-round musical training along with community engagement and education programs for young people from all backgrounds, we use jazz as an effective teaching tool to enhance academic achievement, dedication and teamwork, and cultivate tomorrow’s global citizens. *JazzTimes* calls *Jazz House Kids*, “one of the most successful and respected jazz education programs in the country.” Since 2002, more than 45,000 students have participated in Jazz House Kids music education programs in the schools and at the Jazz House, and have performed for more than half a million people in the community. Through the Jazz House Kids Music + Education Fund, the organization seeks to raise vital funds needed to ensure all students have access to world-class education and community programming.

About The Bravitas Group

The Bravitas Group, Inc. is a Montclair, NJ based firm founded in 2006 with the goal of having a positive impact on the local community. The company realizes this vision mainly through real estate and other entrepreneurial projects, including partnerships with local arts organizations, and philanthropy. More specifically, Bravitas creates green, architecturally interesting spaces through the adaptive reuse of existing, outmoded structures. Many of the buildings are constructed, designed and maintained using the U.S. Green Building Council’s LEED certification program. Bravitas’ buildings are environmentally responsible while simultaneously meeting the demand for unique professional space. Their newest project, Vault491, is an innovative, adaptive reuse of an historic, 92-year-old bank building at 491 Bloomfield Avenue in the heart of *Montclair’s* award-winning downtown. Bravitas also invests in emerging private companies that provide technological services or meet the needs of underserved populations. For example, since 2008, Bravitas has been a co-founder of and key investor in Parentgiving.com, a website created to serve elderly adults and their caregivers with in-depth information and a user-friendly e-commerce store offering thousands of products and supplies that allow people to age more comfortably at home. For more information, visit bravitas.com.

About the Silver Family Foundation

The Silver Family Foundation was established in 2005 to advance the Silver family’s philanthropic vision. Its mission is to support nonprofit organizations dedicated to: helping children and families, particularly those who are needy and underserved, or touched by life-threatening illness; cancer research and related social services; and mental health issues, particularly as they affect young adults.