

For Immediate Release



26TH ANNUAL SAN JOSE JAZZ SUMMER FEST 2015

**Friday, August 7 - Sunday, August 9, 2015
Plaza de César Chavez Park, Downtown San Jose, CA
Event Info: summerfest.sanjosejazz.org**

Second Round Artist Line-Up Announcement:

**JC Brooks & the Uptown Sound
Zigaboo Modeliste
Kamasi Washington and the Next Step
Charenee Wade Presents the Gil Scott-Heron Project
Oran Etkin: Re-Imaging Benny Goodman
Shai Maestro Trio
Zydeco Flames
Quinn Deveaux
Con Brio
Gail Dobson and the Dobson Family Band
Natalie Cressman
Sylvia Cuenca New York Quartet
Le Boeuf Brothers
Marina & The Kats
Tebó's Howlin' Wolf Review
Guitar Fest 2015 with Hristo Vitchev, Terrence Brewer & Rick Vandivier
Liv Slingerland
Mason Razavi's Quartet Plus**

"The greatest jazz mélange in Silicon Valley...most [of which is] set in the disarmingly lovely downtown San Jose parks, for modest entry prices." -*The New York Times*

"San Jose Jazz Summer Fest embodies the notion that groove is the core thread connecting the various subsets of Pan-American musical expression... The Latin programming was comprehensive and spectacular. Ebullient dancers transformed the entire block of South Almaden Avenue that faced the Salsa Stage into a plein air version of Manhattan's legendary Palladium Ballroom..."
-*DownBeat Magazine*

"The beauty of a thoughtfully programmed festival is that one can be at any venue and get a quality musical experience."
-*San Francisco Chronicle*

"This San Jose Jazz Summer Fest -- celebrating its 25th anniversary was a great success. If one word were to describe it, it would be -- quality. The lineup was impressive. The musicians -- well known or newly discovered, were excellent and brought so much joy to San Jose. It was an event you could truly relax and escape from your day-to-day busy life." -*Content Magazine*

"The 25th annual San Jose Jazz Summer Fest was quite the blowout: scores of acts on a dozen stages around downtown... It was hot fun in the summertime." -*San Jose Mercury News*

"The San Jose Jazz Summer Fest is one of the most popular music festivals in the Bay Area." -*KCBS*

San Jose, CA -- Monday, May 11, 2015 -- Silicon Valley's premier annual music event, **San Jose Jazz Summer Fest 2015** returns for its 26th festival season from Friday, August 7 - Sunday, August 9, 2015 in and around Plaza de César Chavez Park in downtown San Jose, CA. A showcase for jazz and related genres, Summer Fest is also nationally recognized as one of the biggest Latin festivals in the country, and a standout summer destination for music lovers, concert-goers and families alike with its 12 stages of live music pulling in tens of thousands of visitors to downtown throughout the weekend. From today until August 3, festival attendees have the opportunity to purchase 3-Day passes now at a special Advance Purchase price (GA: \$55, GA - All Stages: \$65, Priority Access: \$155, VIP: \$325. Single tickets go on sale today, and all ticket prices will increase to Gate Price on August 4. Mark your calendars for the unforgettable live music experience hitting the streets of San Jose this August 2015!

For nearly three decades, San Jose Jazz has embraced its steadfast commitment to only presenting today's most distinguished acts at one of North America's foremost festivals: GRAMMY® Award-winning artists, the hottest salsa and Latin bands in the world, classic jazz pioneers, world music stars, top Bay Area emerging musicians, and trend-setting hip-hop, R&B, and soul artists composing at the bleeding edge of jazz. The 26th Annual San Jose Jazz Summer Fest 2015 features an acclaimed line-up, and today San Jose Jazz announces its second round of artists appearing at Summer Fest 2015: **JC Brooks & the Uptown Sound; Zigaboo Modeliste; Kamasi Washington; Charenee Wade Presents the Gil Scott-Heron Project; Oran Etkin: Re-Imaging Benny Goodman; Shai Maestro Trio; Zydeco Flames; Quinn Deveaux; Con Brio; Gail Dobson and the Dobson Family Band; Natalie Cressman; Sylvia Cuenca New York Quartet; Le Boeuf Brothers; Marina & The Kats; Tebo's Howlin' Wolf Review; Guitar Fest 2015 with Hristo Vitchev, Terrence Brewer & Rick Vandivier; Liv Slingerland; and Mason Razavi's Quartet Plus.** Additional artists will be announced on June 11, 2015.

Summer Fest 2015 acts that have already been announced include: **Eddie Palmieri Latin Jazz Band; Etienne Charles & Creole Soul; Letieres Leite & Orkestra Rumpilezz; Glen David Andrews; Chihiro Yamanaka Trio; Villalobos Brothers; Davina and the Vagabonds; Sultans of String; Bombay Jazz; Aaron Lington Quintet Plays the Music of Burt Bacharach; Plena Libre; Bria Skonberg; Adrianna Marie and Her Groovecutters; Legally Blue; Round Midnight; Jessica Johnson; Greg Johnson; San Jose Jazz High School All Stars; and San Jose Jazz Summer Camp Combo.** Artist interviews and hi-res photos are available upon request.

Summer Fest 2015 heats up on the Kaiser Permanente Main Stage with JC Brooks & the Uptown Sound, which were touted by *MOJO Magazine* as "one of the hottest US soul acts." Their take-no-prisoners live attack and lyrics speaking of the torment of the times have garnered fans from the likes of **NPR, Rahm Emanuel, Jeff Tweedy, and Wilco.** Named one of the "**Top 100 Most Influential Drummers Ever**" by *Total Drumsets*, acclaimed drummer **Zigaboo Modeliste** boasts a resume that includes innovative work as a member of **The Meters** and side work with **Keith Richards, Robert Palmer, and Dr. John.** Jazz saxophonist **Kamasi Washington** has collaborated with jazz and R&B legends such as **Raphael Saadiq, Lauryn Hill, Chaka Khan, and Quincy Jones.** At Summer Fest 2015, Washington presents both of his latest projects, **The New Step** and **The West Coast Get Down**, where he artistically aligns the intersections of jazz and hip-hop.

As part of the **Motéma Music Showcase** at Summer Fest 2015, three of the label's artists will perform on the Cafe Stritch Stage: **Charenee Wade, Oran Etkin, and Shai Maestro.** First runner-up in the **2010 Thelonious Monk International Vocal Competition**, Charenee Wade is a notable singer, composer, arranger, and educator. At Summer Fest, she pays tribute to blues-ologist **Gil Scott-Heron**, a revolutionary artist and activist who merged spoken word with soul and funk-jazz grooves. Talented clarinetist, improviser, and composer Oran Etkin uses his unique world music inspired sound to create an homage to the classic **Benny Goodman Quartet** at Summer Fest. Former member of **Avishai Cohen's** trio, the Israel-born, New York-based jazz pianist Shai Maestro is now the bandleader of his own **Shai Maestro Trio**, which presents music that is altogether dynamic, explosive, and virtuosic.

Gaining a reputation as the West Coast's premiere zydeco band, **Zydeco Flames** boasts a bevy of famous fans, including former **President Bill Clinton.** They've been awarded "**Best Zydeco Band**" by the **West Coast Blues Society**, and "**Best Original Song**" by the **West Coast Cajun & Zydeco Association.** Vocalist **Quinn DeVeaux**, influenced by Chicago Blues and New Orleans soul and gospel, has packed houses for years with his acclaimed **Blue Beat Review.**

San Francisco's soul/R&B band **Con Brio** is led by 22 year-old vocal phenom **Ziek McCarter**, an ultra charismatic, undeniably gifted showman who, along with his breakout band, have already graced stages alongside **Meshell Ndegeocello, Trombone Shorty, Fishbone** and **Karl Denson's Tiny Universe.** Con Brio released their debut EP, *Kiss The Sun*, in February 2015 and *San Francisco Chronicle* hailed them as one of "15 Must-Follow Bay Area Bands". Celebrated Bay Area vocalist, educator, and recording artist **Gail Dobson** brings the longtime festival staple, the **Dobson Family Band**, to this year's Summer Fest. Her ensemble celebrates the late jazz pianist **Smith Dobson**, whose work spans over five decades in the Bay Area.

Trombonist, composer, and vocalist **Natalie Cressman** has spent a vast majority of the last four years touring the jam band circuit with **Phish's** guitarist **Trey Anastasio**. The daughter of **Sandy Cressman**, a jazz vocalist immersed in the traditions of Brazilian music, and **Jeff Cressman**, a recording engineer, trombonist, and longtime member of **Santana**, Cressman has also performed with jazz luminaries **Nicholas Payton**, **Wycliffe Gordon**, and **Peter Apfelbaum**. A semi-finalist in the **Thelonious Monk International Jazz Drum Competition**, native San Josean jazz drummer **Sylvia Cuenca** is best known for her extensive collaboration with trumpeter/flügelhornist **Clark Terry** and the late tenor saxophonist **Joe Henderson**. At Summer Fest, she showcases her spirited ensemble, the **Sylvia Cuenca New York Quartet**.

Winners of the **International Songwriting Competition** and recipients of an **Astral Grant** from the **National Foundation for Advancement in the Arts**, the **Le Boeuf Brothers** have developed an energetic sound that is both innovative and intelligent. Fondly referred to as the "smallest big band on the planet", **Marina & The Kats** revive the spirit of '40s jazz with hot grooves, enchanting melodies, driving beats, and the gorgeous voice of Marina Zettl. Accomplished producer and bassist **Frank "Tebo" Thibaux** brings his signature blend of funky blues with a zydeco twist to **Tebo's Howlin' Wolf Review**. Working with a vast range of artists, from **Herbie Hancock** to **MC Hammer** to **John Lee Hooker, Jr.**, the artist has earned two **GRAMMY®** nominations.

Guitar Fest 2015 presents three leading Bay Area jazz guitarists on one stage - **Hristo Vitchev**, **Terrence Brewer**, and **Rick Vandivier**. Joined by a stellar rhythm section, their colorful interaction and improvisational interplay at Summer Fest will serve as a tribute to modern guitar master **Pat Metheny**. A past winner of the San Jose Jazz **Youth Blues Band Competition**, guitarist and singer-songwriter **Liv Slingerland** has studied under guitar greats **J.C. Smith** and **John Garcia** to achieve a distinct sound influenced by a fusion of modern rock and blues.

Rounding out the Summer Fest 2015 line-up is Bay Area jazz guitarist **Mason Razavi** bringing his evocative jazz aesthetic featured on his latest release, **Quartet Plus**. A gifted educator and composer, Razavi is a faculty member at **De Anza College** and conducts clinics at **San Jose State University**.

Brendan Rawson, Executive Director of San Jose Jazz comments about this year's Summer Fest: "We continue to build Summer Fest programming as a reflection of our core Bay Area audience. That is to say more and more international, more boundary crossing, and more fun. In addition, as Silicon Valley's jazz festival we continue to explore new directions and innovations in jazz. We are fortunate that there is such great young talent in the jazz world right now pushing the music in exciting directions."

Artistic and Festival Director **Bruce Labadie** adds: "Over the past several years, San Jose Jazz has developed a network of local co-curators, who, under our direction, have brought a depth of programming knowledge to the various stages at Summer Fest. This outreach to the community has encouraged a tighter relationship with artists and audiences, and has enabled San Jose Jazz to build on all of our ongoing successes. It's really exciting that Summer Fest remains a place of discovery for music-lovers, friends and families who come year after year to find new talent and enjoy established artists in the variety of settings."

San Jose Jazz is grateful for the many visionary partners that help make the Fest possible. Returning to sponsor the main stage this year is Kaiser Permanente, in celebration of the positive role of music and dancing in a healthy lifestyle; KCSM Radio Jazz 91, which will once again be streaming live from select Fest stages; the City of San Jose; Gordon Biersch Brewing Company; YP; *JazzTimes*, *DownBeat*, KPIX5/KBCW, PayPal, Greenberg Traurig, and Scott's Seafood. San Jose Jazz is also proud to welcome Alaska Airlines to its list of sponsors this year.

San Jose Jazz proudly presents dynamic programs that foster a positive social and economic impact on the greater community. Its annual Winter Fest (February & March) serves as a unique lab for artists pushing the boundaries of jazz, which extends to the summer offerings on Summer Fest's Jazz Beyond Stage, artists for which to be announced June 11. Economically, Summer Fest alone brings in more than \$12 million to downtown San Jose. Through its year-round youth education programs, more than 100 free live music events each year, and unparalleled commitment to providing performance and classroom opportunities for elementary, middle and high school music students, San Jose Jazz is thrilled to contribute to the national arts movement benefiting the lives of hundreds of thousands of adults and children.

Get ready for an exciting line-up of acclaimed artists and the best in Bay Area music talent at the 26th San Jose Jazz Summer Fest 2015! Below is a list of featured artists performing at this year's festival; additional artists will be announced in the coming weeks.

26th Annual San Jose Jazz Summer Fest 2015

When: August 7 - 9, 2015

Where: Plaza de César Chavez Park, San Jose, CA

Admission: Please see below

More info: summerfest.sanjosejazz.org; (408) 288-7557

Eddie Palmieri Latin Jazz Band

*Sun, Aug 9

Kaiser Permanente Main Stage

Known for his charismatic power and bold innovative drive, **Eddie Palmieri** has a musical career that spans over 50 years as a bandleader of Salsa and Latin Jazz orchestras. With ten **GRAMMY® Awards** and a discography that includes 36 titles, Palmieri is known for his astute arranging skills and historic compositions.

The celebrated musician has received countless awards, including the **Latin Academy of Recording Arts & Sciences Lifetime Achievement Award**, **Chubb Fellowship Award**, **National Black Sports and Entertainment Lifetime Achievement Award**, and the **Harlem Renaissance Award**. Yet another outstanding achievement was "**Caliente**", a radio show hosted by Palmieri on **National Public Radio** and picked up by more than 160 radio stations nationwide.

Eddie Palmieri has one of the most actively touring Salsa and Latin Jazz orchestras to date, tours of which have taken him to Europe, Asia, Latin America, Australia, North Africa, and throughout the Caribbean. A true powerhouse of brilliance, he has shown that time is infinite with respect to his repertoire, as he continues to captivate live audiences throughout the world.

eddiepalmierimusic.com

Etienne Charles & Creole Soul

*Sat, Aug 8

California Theatre Stage & "The Stage" Stage

Composer, arranger, recording artist, and educator **Etienne Charles** is one of the most compelling and exciting young jazz artists on the scene, ushering the genre into groundbreaking new territory. The young trumpeter and bandleader will present the world premiere of his composition, the "**San Jose Suite**" at Summer Fest 2015. On April 9, 2015, Etienne Charles was awarded a **Guggenheim Fellowship** for Music Composition.

The "**San Jose Suite**" explores stories, rituals, native chants, rhythms, and other cultural elements that shaped different San Jose cities. The exploration will take place through composition and improvisation, with each movement of the 60-75 minute piece introducing good, cultural and historical icons, traditions, and milestone events in the history of the cities.

Charles' latest album **Creole Soul** is a captivating journey of new jazz expression, tapping into a myriad of styles rooted into his Afro-Caribbean background. While the album is steeped in the jazz tradition, Charles delivers a unique spin on Creole-oriented tunes, including covers from past masters ranging from **Bob Marley** to **Thelonious Monk**. Joining the leader for the Creole music adventure is Charles' band, comprised of tenor saxophonist **Jacques Schwarz-Bart**, alto saxophonist **Brian Hogans**, **Kris Bowers** on piano and Fender Rhodes, bassist **Ben Williams** and drummer **Obed Calvaire**. Guests include vocalist **Erol Josué**, guitarist **Alex Wintz** and percussionist/vocalists **Daniel Sadownick** and **D'Achee**.

Etienne Charles has performed with a vast range of musicians, from **Roberta Flack**, **Rene Marie**, and **David Rudder** to **Wynton Marsalis**, **Johnny Mandel**, and the **Count Basie Orchestra**. In addition to his talents as a musician, Charles is also an **Assistant Professor of Jazz Studies** at **Michigan State University**.

etiennecharles.com

Letieres Leite & Orkestra Rumpilezz

*Sat, Aug 8

Kaiser Permanente Main Stage

Letieres Leite & Orkestra Rumpilezz is an award-winning 20-piece big band from Bahia, Brazil whose music is a mixture of the percussive rhythms of **candomblé** (an Afro-Brazilian religion practiced in Bahia) and the North American big-band jazz tradition.

Founded in 2006 by musician and conductor **Letieres Leite**, the Rumpilezz is governed by sound sensitivity and marked by the influence of jazz in its harmonic construction. The ensemble consists of five musicians in the percussion section (drums, surdo, timbau, agogo, tambourine, and caxixi), along with 14 brass musicians (four trumpets, four trombones, two alto saxophones, two tenor saxophones, one baritone saxophone, and one tuba).

The Orkestra Rumpilezz has emerged as the exponent of the Brazilian and international music scene, receiving the **Bravo Award!** for "**Best Album**" and the **Brazilian Music Award** for "**Best Instrumental Group**". The ensemble has performed with notable names in the music world including **Joshua Redman, Ed Motta, Nivaldo Ornelas, Stanley Jordan, Toninho Horta**, and countless others.

rumpilezz.com

Glen David Andrews

*Sat, Aug 8

Big Easy Stage & Kaiser Permanente Main Stage

Hailed by the *Wall Street Journal* as "electrifying", vocalist and trombone player **Glen David Andrews** has long endeared himself to audiences in his native New Orleans with his charisma and sweetness.

The talented musician and songwriter has practiced his musicianship and showmanship with the city's most energetic brass bands, from **New Birth** and **L'il Rascals** to **ReBirth** and **Treme**. Andrews performs regularly at such New Orleans clubs as **dba** and **Three Muses**. In recent years he began making waves as a headliner at the world's biggest block party, the annual **New Orleans Jazz & Heritage Festival**, where he has ripped it up in the gospel tent, the blues tent *and* the jazz tent. Andrews also was inducted into the **Louisiana Music Hall of Fame** in 2011 as a "**Future Hall of Famer**", and was nominated for "**Best Male Performer**" at the 2009 **Big Easy Awards** and "**Best R&B Performer**" at the 2009 **Best of the Beat Awards**.

Recorded in 2013 at the **Living Room**, a converted church on the West Bank, Glen David Andrews' latest *Redemption* was produced by **GRAMMY**® winner **Leo Sacks**. The album features frequent collaborators of the musician, including **Ivan Neville, Jamison Ross, Anders Osborne, and Mahalia Jackson**.

glendavidandrewsband.com

JC Brooks & the Uptown Sound

*Fri, Aug 7

Kaiser Permanente Main Stage

*Sat, Aug 8

Blues Stage

With a take-no-prisoners live attack and lyrics speaking of the torment of the times, it's no wonder the *Chicago Tribune* calls **JC Brooks & the Uptown Sound** "the real deal". This is a soul band connecting with people the old-fashioned way: by whipping them into a frenzy. JC Brooks & the Uptown Sound has attracted a grassroots following, with *MOJO Magazine* calling them "one of the hottest US soul acts." Releasing their **Bloodshot Records** debut *Want More* in 2011, followed by 2013's *Howl*, the ensemble has toured North America and Europe, attracting an enthusiastic following while garnering airplay from the likes of **NPR, KEXP**, and AAA radio.

The band's cover of **Wilco's "I Am Trying To Break Your Heart"** earned them a spot performing with **Jeff Tweedy** at Wilco's **Solid Sound Festival** in 2011. JC Brooks & the Uptown Sound have collaborated with soul legend **Syl Johnson** and were handpicked by **Chicago Mayor Rahm Emanuel** to play his inaugural party in 2011. In performance and on record, it is undeniable that JC Brooks & the Uptown Sound are 100% soul and are fond of getting crowds moving, something that's been sorely missing from live music.

jcbrooksandtheuptownsound.com

Zigaboo Modeliste

*Sat, Aug 8

Big Easy Stage

Joseph "Zigaboo" Modeliste is a master drummer, rhythm innovator, percussionist, and New Orleans legend. His innovative work as a member of **The Meters**, as well as his status as a master of funk grooves and syncopated rhythms, have garnered him an unparalleled level of respect among musicians and fans. Modeliste is the most highly acclaimed drummer out of New Orleans whose creativity has been a wellspring of funk influences for three decades. He boasts a résumé of side work with the likes of **Keith Richards, Robert Palmer, and Dr. John**, and his music has been sampled many times over by artists such as **Run DMC, A Tribe Called Quest, Queen Latifah, and Cypress Hill**.

A winner of the **BMI Award** for **Young Gunz' "Can't Stop Won't Stop"**, Modeliste's contributions can be heard on over 36 albums nationally and internationally. The drummer's tunes are featured in films such as **Jackie Brown, 8 Mile, and Two Can Play That Game**. In 2014, Modeliste and The Meters were showcased in **Dave Grohl's HBO** docuseries "**Sonic Highways**". He was also named one of the "**Top 100 Most Influential Drummers Ever**" by **Total Drumsets**.

zigaboo.com

Chihiro Yamanaka Trio

*Sat, Aug 8

San Jose Stage

Blue Note Records artist **Chihiro Yamanaka** is one of the most exciting jazz pianists and composers of her generation. Yamanaka's music pivots between her strikingly original compositions and unique arrangements, accomplishing the impressive feat of introducing the element of surprise into some of the most famous songs in the jazz, pop, and classical music.

The new album by Chihiro Yamanka, **Somethin' Blue**, is the pianist's debut on Blue Notes Records. Her impressive technical mastery of the piano combines with her improvisational command to make her a member of the pantheon of great pianists who have recorded for Blue Note throughout its history. Additional releases include her creative reworking of **Beatles** classics on the tribute **Because, Molto Cantabile, After Hours 2, Reminiscence, and My Favorite Blue Note**, released by **Universal Music** in celebration of the 75th anniversary of **Blue Note Records**.

Yamanaka regularly performs across the globe, with recent U.S. concerts at venues including **Carnegie Hall, Yoshi's, and the Mary Lou Williams Women In Jazz Festival** at the **Kennedy Center**, as well as frequent tours in Japan and Europe. The musician has become a multimedia celebrity in Japan, hosting her own radio show, making TV appearances, and authoring a book, **The Landscape With Jazz**.

chihiroyamanaka.com

Kamasi Washington and the Next Step

*Sun, Aug 9

Kaiser Permanente Main Stage

Kamasi Washington and The West Coast Get Down

*Sun, Aug 9

California Theatre Stage

Saxophonist **Kamasi Washington's** new project **The New Step** is a modern take on the big band format, with two drummers, two bassists (upright and electric), three horns, and a vocalist. Washington has long aligned himself at the intersection of jazz and hip-hop with projects including **The West Coast Get Down**, featuring eight young ground-breaking musicians from Los Angeles.

Kamasi Washington has led a fulfilling life in music since an early age, placing the lead tenor saxophone in the top jazz ensemble at the **Hamilton High School Music Academy** and forming the jazz ensemble **The Young Jazz Giants** while still in high school. In his second year at **UCLA**, Washington went on his first national tour with hip-hop legend **Snoop Dogg**.

Washington has collaborated with jazz and R&B legends **Raphael Saadiq, Lauryn Hill, Chaka Khan, and Quincy Jones**, as well as becoming a member of **The Gerald Wilson Orchestra**, to study under his biggest compositional hero. The saxophonist has also appeared on **Kendrick Lamar's To Pimp A Butterfly**, and on albums by **Harvey Mason** and **Stanley Clarke**. Washington's work

with **Brainfeeder**, a label established by electronic musician and producer **Flying Lotus**, has culminated in his first album with The New Step, **The Epic**. A sprawling album, the innovative project is full of funk, gospel, swing, and hip-hop, expanding the boundaries of jazz.

kamasiwashington.com

Charenee Wade Presents the Gil Scott-Heron Project

*Sun, Aug 9

Motéma Music Showcase @ Cafe Stritch Stage

First runner-up in the **2010 Thelonious Monk International Vocal Competition**, **Charenee Wade** is a notable singer, composer, arranger, and educator. At Summer Fest as part of the Motéma Music showcase, she pays tribute to blues-ologist **Gil Scott-Heron**, a revolutionary artist and activist who merged spoken word with soul and funk-jazz grooves.

Wade's accolades include **Betty Carter's Jazz Ahead Program**, being chosen for the **Dianne Reeves Young Artist Workshop** at **Carnegie Hall**, and being the first runner-up in the **Jazzmobile Vocal Competition**. The talented vocalist performs internationally and has graced the stages of the **Jazz Gallery**, **Jazz at Lincoln Center's Dizzy's Club Coca Cola**, the legendary **Smalls**, and the **Zinc Bar**. Currently a professor at the **Aaron Copland School of Music - Queens College - CUNY**, and with the **Jazzmobile Workshop** program, Wade teaches various workshops and clinics around the country.

Famously known for "**The Revolution Will Not Be Televised**", Gil Scott-Heron was melding music that had elements of soul, jazz, blues, and hip-hop, even before hip-hop really existed. In tribute to the late artist, Wade released a version of Scott-Heron's classic tune "**Ain't No Such Thing As Superman**" for her upcoming album **Offering: The Music of Gil Scott-Heron & Brian Jackson**. The release features a host of luminaries including **Christian McBride**, **Malcolm Jamal Warner**, **Lakecia Benjamin**, **Stefon Harris**, **Marcus Miller**, and many others.

chareneemusic.com

Oran Etkin: Re-Imagining Benny Goodman

*Sun, Aug 9

Motéma Music Showcase @ Cafe Stritch Stage

Talented clarinetist, improviser, and composer **Oran Etkin's** unique world music inspired sound emanates from an openness to discovery in the world, in himself, and within his music. At Summer Fest as part of the Motéma Music showcase, the musician presents a creative homage to the classic **Benny Goodman Quartet**.

Through years of experience in a myriad of musical cultures, Etkin has developed a singular sound on the clarinet, bass-clarinet and saxophone that draws on ancient traditions (from Africa, Israel, and New Orleans) and resonates with the driving energy of the current New York jazz scene. Deep respect and honest personal musical expression are themes that tie together all of the artist's work in composition, performance, recording, and education.

Oran Etkin continues the tradition of music education through a groundbreaking new method of teaching music called **Timbalooloo**. The popularity of Etkin's educational method has spread through word of mouth and has been endorsed by **Harvey Keitel**, **Naomi Watts**, and **Edie Falco**, all of whom have enrolled their children in the program. Oran Etkin's music has also been featured on several compilations: the **GRAMMY**® Award-winning album **All About Bullies, Big And Small**, which features two tracks composed and performed by Etkin; **GRAMMY**®-nominated album, **Healthy Food For Thought**; and the **Parent's Choice Gold Award** winner, **Putumayo Kids Jazz Playground**.

oranetkin.com

Shai Maestro Trio

*Sun, Aug 9

Motéma Music Showcase @ Cafe Stritch Stage

Israel-born, New York-based jazz pianist **Shai Maestro** was a former member of **Avishai Cohen's** trio. Now the bandleader of his own **Shai Maestro Trio**, the impassioned musician presents music that is altogether dynamic, explosive, and virtuosic, as part of Summer Fest's Motéma Music showcase. After studying classical piano with **Professor Benjamin Oren** at the **Music Academy** in

Jerusalem, Shai Maestro won the **National Jazz Ensembles Competition "Jazz Signs"**, as well as a number of scholarships from the **America-Israel Cultural Fund** for jazz piano.

Joining bassist **Avishai Cohen**'s trio for five years, alongside drummer **Mark Guiliana**, Maestro toured extensively around the world, playing 70-90 concerts a year at well-known venues and festivals including **Blue Note**, **Yoshi's**, **Madrid Jazz Festival**, and **The Olympia Hall**. He has performed with the likes of **Kendrick Scott**, **Jorge Rossy**, and **John Pattitucci**. Working with such acclaimed artists solidified Maestro's status as a piano prodigy with dazzling skill, elegant phrasing, and unflinching taste.

Embarking on a new journey with the Shai Maestro Trio, the pianist has proved himself a versatile and diverse bandleader. Shai Maestro Trio has shared the stage with ensembles led by jazz greats including **Chick Corea**, **Tigran Hamasyan**, **Esperanza Spalding**, and **Diana Krall**. The Trio's two critically praised albums have spurred extensive international tours in concert halls, jazz clubs, and at festivals.

shaimaestro.com

Villalobos Brothers

*Sat, Aug 8

"The Stage" Stage

Villalobos Brothers have been recognized as one of today's leading Contemporary Mexican ensembles, delivering an intoxicating brew of brilliance, cadence and virtuosity that awakens and mesmerizes. Their original compositions and arrangements masterfully blend and celebrate the richness of Mexican folk music with the intricate harmonies of jazz and classical music.

The first Mexican band to play at the **Apollo Theater**, the ensemble has also performed at an impressive list of venues including the **Latin Grammy Awards**, **Carnegie Hall**, **Lincoln Center**, and **Rockefeller Center**. In 2013, Villalobos Brothers won the "**2013 Battle of the Boroughs**", one of **National Public Radio**'s flagship competitions.

They have collaborated and recorded with legendary musicians, including **Paddy Moloney and The Chieftains**, **Dan Zanes**, **Jay Rodriguez**, **Pierre Boulez**, **Dolly Parton**, and **Eddie Palmieri**. Their most recent album, ***Aliens of Extraordinary Ability***, references the Artist Visas that the three brothers received before coming to the United States. Future endeavors include the completion of a Symphonic Project in collaboration with **GRAMMY**®-winning arranger and composer **Eduardo Magallanes**, as well as the recording of a second album.

Villalobos Brothers are composed of brothers **Ernesto Villalobos** (lead vocals, violin), **Alberto Villalobos** (lead vocals, violin), and **Luis Villalobos** (lead vocals, violin), and collaborators **Humberto Flores** (guitar, back-up vocals), **Leo Sherman** (bass), and **Rosa Avila** (drums).

villalobosbrothers.com

Zydeco Flames

*Sun, Aug 9

Big Easy Stage

Zydeco Flames has gained a reputation as the West Coast's premiere zydeco band. Their sizzling roots rhythms are timeless and the execution is relentless, with a stunningly powerful groove. The ensemble delights fans with hot zydeco in the tradition of masters like **Clifton Chenier**, **Buckwheat Zydeco**, and **Queen Ida**. Zydeco Flames consistently pack the house in venues ranging from contemporary clubs to major festivals to traditional dancehalls, playing the likes of the **Portland Blues Festival**, **San Francisco Jazz Festival**, and the **Black and White Ball**. The group was awarded "**Best Zydeco Band**" by the **West Coast Blues Society**, and "**Best Original Song**" for "**Don't Worry**" by the **West Coast Cajun & Zydeco Association**.

With their unique brand of Louisiana-spiced rhythms, infectious energy, and soulful ranges, these rousing entertainers have unleashed their talents on over ten original albums and compilations. Zydeco Flames have also played for former **President Bill Clinton** at his re-election fundraiser, and have five songs featured on the popular computer reality game, "**The Sims Unleashed**".

zydecoflames.com

Davina and the Vagabonds

Sat, Aug 8

Kaiser Permanente Main Stage & The Blues Stage

Davina and the Vagabonds have created a stir with their high-energy blues performances, sharp-dressed professionalism, and front woman **Davina Sowers'** commanding stage presence. The band's eclectic influences range from **Fats Domino** and the **Preservation Hall Jazz Band** to **Aretha Franklin** and **Tom Waits**.

Much more than just a blues act, the ensemble's shows are filled with New Orleans charm, Memphis soul swagger, tender gospel passages, and dark theatrical moments that evoke **Kurt Weill**. Sower's voice and stage presence have been compared to **Etta James**, **Amy Winehouse**, **Janis Joplin**, **Billie Holiday**, and **Betty Boop**. Similarities aside, Sowers is a true original.

The rollicking quintet averages over 245 performances a year, and have played at blues festivals in **Canada**, **Romania**, **Switzerland** and **Finland**, also appearing at the **New Orleans Jazz and Heritage Festival** and **Monterey Jazz Festival**. Davina and the Vagabonds has shared the stage with **The Roots**, **Aaron Neville**, **Los Lonely Boys**, **Booker T and The MGs**, **Pinetop Perkins**, **Robert Cray**, and many others. The group's focused, clean sound and emphasis on acoustic instrumentation are novel to both the blues and jazz worlds, and are strikingly displayed on their latest recording, 2014's **Sunshine**.

davinaandthevagabonds.com

Sultans of String

*Sun, Aug 9

"The Stage" Stage

JUNO Award nominees and "Canada's ambassadors of musical diversity", **Sultans of String** thrill their audiences with their global sonic tapestry of Spanish Flamenco, Arabic folk, Cuban rhythms, and French Manouche Gypsy-jazz, while celebrating musical fusion and human creativity with warmth and virtuosity.

Sultans of String is riding a wave of success from their sold out Canadian album release tours, quadruple nominations for the 2012 **Canadian Folk Music Awards**, winning **World Group of the Year**, and their albums, **Yalla Yalla!** and **Move**, soaring to #1 across Canada on Top Ten national radio charts. Touring as a duo to a quintet, the ensemble has performed around the world at festivals and venues including the **Celtic Connections Festival**, **Birdland jazz Club**, **Mariposa Folk Festival**, **National Arts Centre**, and performing with the **Toronto Symphony Orchestra** at **Roy Thompson Hall**.

Queen's Diamond Jubilee Medal recipient, the six-string violinist/bandleader **Chris McKhool** draws from a collective of master musicians to bring Sultans of String to community, festival, and school-age audiences around the world. Sultans of String includes amazing musical friends such as guitarists **Kevin Laliberté** (**Jesse Cook**, **The Chieftains**) and **Eddie Paton** (**Robert Michaels**), bass master **Drew Birston** (**Chantal Kreviazuk**), and Cuban master percussionists **Chendy Leon** and **Alberto Suarez**.

sultansofstring.com

Quinn Deveaux

*Sun, Aug 9

Big Easy Stage

Vocalist **Quinn Deveaux** has packed houses and astounded audiences in the Bay Area for years with his smooth, soulful voice and cool, melodic songwriting. His acclaimed **Blue Beat Review** has been thrilling San Francisco's lovers of rollicking R&B for years. Deveaux has combined the influences of his early Chicago blues band with New Orleans soul and gospel music in the **Blue Beat Review**, a self-styled crossroads for his many musical roots. With all the subtlety of the great soul and blues singers of the past, Deveaux and his bright ensemble keeps audiences in a state of joy.

The modern soul songs of the vocalist are sung in his sweet tenor over a spare guitar or carried by his band's bright tones. In making old tones new, Deveaux & The Blue Beat Review have created a singular sound filled with confident swagger and warm grit.

quinndeveaux.com

Con Brio

*Fri, Aug 7

Kaiser Permanente Main Stage

Soul/R&B band **Con Brio** (meaning "with spirit" in Italian), is the sum of all its parts: a lead singer determined to share his journey on the stage and in the studio with a deft ensemble paving their way to the top. Con Brio is fronted by young vocal phenom **Ziek McCarter**, an ultra charismatic, undeniably gifted showman who could be compared to such greats as **Justin Timberlake**, **Prince**, **Maxwell**, and even **Michael Jackson**.

Channeling the influence of his father, who was tragically killed in 2011 by a police officer in East Texas, McCarter uses the stage as his sanctuary, telling his story through the lens of raw and passionate compositions. The San Francisco nightclub scene has become the breakout band's inspiration board, and they were recently hailed by San Francisco Chronicle as one of "15 Must-Follow Bay Area Bands". Con Brio has already graced the stage with **Meshell Ndegeocello**, **Trombone Shorty**, **Fishbone** and **Karl Denson's Tiny Universe**.

Con Brio's album **Kiss The Sun** is sure to get music lovers with all types of musical tastes in the mood, with its mid-tempo burners and soulful, sensual gems. The resulting dynamic fuses pulsating rhythms, blazing guitar work, soaring horns, the warm feel of a Hammond organ, and shimmering vocals with an unforgettable stage presence rooted by a seemingly limitless energy.

thebandconbrio.com

Bombay Jazz

*Sat, Aug 8

California Theatre Stage

Guitar legend **Larry Coryell**, **George Brooks**, Indian bamboo flute master **Ronu Majumdar**, and tabla virtuoso **Aditya Kalyanpur** join forces to create the finest Indian-inspired jazz and jazz-flavored raga with their ensemble, **Bombay Jazz**. These world music visionaries blend the ancient improvisational art of Indian classical music with America's jazz tradition to create a soul satisfying, original music filled with rich melodies and dynamic rhythms.

Bombay Jazz made their debut at the **Jazz Yatra** in Mumbai, India in 2003, where they received critical and popular acclaim. A whirlwind tour of Europe (21 performances, 10 countries, 23 days) and performances throughout the United States soon followed. Since their debut, Bombay Jazz has toured across the globe, solidifying the group's relentless pursuit of compositional and improvisational excellence.

As one of the pioneers of jazz-rock, Larry Coryell has performed with superstars including **Eric Clapton**, **Jimi Hendrix**, and **Al Di Meola**. His Indian music collaborations include **Hariprasad Chaurasia**, **Zakir Hussain**, and **Dr. L. Subramaniam**. A **GRAMMY®** nominee, world-renowned Ronu Majumdar plays the bansuri, a simple bamboo flute, with tremendous power, versatility, and virtuosity. He has performed with international superstars **Pandit Ravi Shankar**, **George Harrison**, and **Ry Cooder**. Considered one of the most promising torchbearers of the **Punjab Gharana**, Aditya Kalyanpur has had the honor of accompanying India's most outstanding concert artists including **Pandit Shivkumar Sharma**, **Ustad Amjad Ali Khan**, and **Ustad Sultan Khan**. Kalyanpur teaches on the faculty of **Harvard's Sangeet Music School** and has worked with the **Rolling Stones** and saxophonist **Tim Reis**.

georgebrooks.com/projects/bombay-jazz

Gail Dobson and the Dobson Family Band

*Sun, Aug 9

Silicon Valley Stage

Celebrated vocalist, educator, and recording artist **Gail Dobson** presents Fest favorite the **Dobson Family Band**, a musical team whose members have been featured at Summer Fest from the event's inception. They celebrate the late jazz pianist **Smith Dobson**, whose work spans over five decades in the Bay Area.

Drawing from the "Dobson Songbook" and the vocalist's recent album **How Fragile We Are**, the ensemble celebrates an extensive Bay Area musical legacy. A celebrated San Francisco singer on the scene since the late '60s and '70s, Dobson was often heard at renowned venues including the **Purple Onion** and **hungry I**. After meeting late jazz pianist **Smith Dobson**, the pair married, creating a family and musical dynasty that is still going strong today. Over the past 30 years, the vocalist has been

heavily involved in music education, both as a vocal coach and in supporting programs and schools throughout the Bay Area, including **Music in Schools Today**, **Santa Cruz School District**, and **Stanford Jazz Workshop**.

The daughter of Gail and Smith, Sasha Dobson has established a thriving career in New York City. After releasing ***The Darkling Thrush*** (2005) and ***Modern Romance*** (2006), she began playing in dive bars with her friend **Norah Jones**, who invited Sasha to join her on tour. Dobson's most recent album, ***Aquarius*** (2013), was recorded with guitarist/producer **Joel Hamilton (Black Keys, Tom Waits, Sparklehorse)** and hailed by ***MAGNET*** as "raw and compelling." She and her band performed at **Farm Aid 2013** and Dobson opened for **Willie Nelson** on a series of early 2014 dates.

Her brother **Smith Dobson V** is an accomplished drummer and vibraphonist, who's studied with **Eddie Marshall** and **Bobby Hutcherson**.

gaildobson.com

Natalie Cressman

*Sat, Aug 8

Silicon Valley Stage

Young trombonist, composer, and vocalist **Natalie Cressman** has combined the full range of her sonic influences into a startlingly mature and original voice. Melding the sophistication of modern jazz with captivating storytelling and intoxicating melodies reminiscent of indie rocks' most distinctive songwriters, Cressman has worked with Phish's celebrated guitarist **Trey Anastasio** and saxophonist **Peter Apfelbaum**.

Cressman has spent a vast majority of the last four years touring the jam band circuit with Anastasio while also performing with jazz luminaries **Nicholas Payton** and **Wycliffe Gordon**. Raised in San Francisco by parents **Sandy Cressman**, a jazz vocalist immersed in the traditions of Brazilian music, and **Jeff Cressman**, a recording engineer, trombonist, and longtime member of **Santana**, Cressman was constantly surrounded by a vast array of music. She's collaborated with Uruguayan percussionist **Edgardo Cambon Y Orquesta Candela**, **Pete Escovedo's Latin Jazz Orchestra**, and **Jai Uttal and the Pagan Love Orchestra**.

The diverse experiences and inspiration she's garnered from these renowned bandleaders' boundary-blurring approaches has resulted in a distinct sound of her own that defies categorization, but is instantly recognizable. Cressman's versatility and enthusiasm for new music has propelled her toward a rich musical career, exemplified by her jazz-oriented debut, ***Unfolding***, and her more song-based sophomore album, ***Turn the Sea***.

nataliecressman.com

Sylvia Cuenca New York Quartet

*Sat, Aug 8

Silicon Valley Stage

Sylvia Cuenca is a skillful, hard-swinging post-bop/hard-bop jazz drummer best known for her extensive collaboration with trumpeter/flügelhornist **Clark Terry** and the late tenor saxophonist **Joe Henderson**. Cuenca's spirited performance style is on full display in the **Sylvia Cuenca New York Quartet**.

Now based in New York City, native San Josean Cuenca has performed and toured internationally with renowned jazz luminaries including **Billy Taylor**, **Eddie Henderson**, **Gary Bartz**, and **Kenny Barron**. She can also be heard on recordings with Clark Terry, **Ron McClure**, **Ted Curson**, and **The Vienna Art Orchestra**, among others. As a bandleader, Cuenca recently performed with her own group at the **Mary Lou Williams Jazz Festival** at the **Kennedy Center**. Her independent releases, ***The Crossing*** and ***Exit 13*** have received great critical acclaim, including a song from the latter album being featured on **HBO's "Sex and the City"**.

An educator and clinician, Sylvia Cuenca has worked with the **Sisters in Jazz Program**, **Jazz for Teens Program**, and is a staff member at the **Stanford Jazz Workshop**. At the beginning of her career, the drummer had received jazz performance grants from the **National Endowment of the Arts**, and was a semi-finalist in the **Thelonious Monk International Jazz Drum Competition**.

sylviacuenca.com

Le Boeuf Brothers

*Sat, Aug 8

Silicon Valley Stage

The **Le Boeuf Brothers** have developed an energetic sound that is intelligent, hip, and relevant by fusing their firm jazz roots with a fresh, forward-thinking blend of indie-rock, classical, and electronic music. Identical twin brothers Remy and Pascal Le Boeuf (saxophone and piano) are best known for their innovative compositional projects.

The duo, originally from Santa Cruz and now established in New York City, have raised their prominent musical voices as both performers and composers. In addition to being the youngest to ever receive the **ASCAP/IAJE Commission** in honor of **Quincy Jones** in 2004, Remy received a **New Jazz Works** grant from **Chamber Music America** to write a series of pieces for the **Le Boeuf Brothers** and the **Myth String Quartet** based on the short stories of **Franz Kafka**. Additionally, the brothers received an **Astral Grant** from the **National Foundation for Advancement in the Arts**, and were awarded first place in the **International Songwriting Competition**.

On their albums ***In Praise of Shadows*** and ***Le Boeuf Brothers Remixed***, the twins expand upon the jazz tradition by continuing to sculpt their compositions after the initial recording process, using modern production techniques, sampling, and layered arranging and recording methods. Le Boeuf Brothers are inspired by the fact that their remix work lays the foundation for new ideas in the jazz realm for the next generation of jazz innovation.

leboeufbrothers.com

Aaron Lington Quintet Plays the Music of Burt Bacharach

*Sat, Aug 8

Cafe Stritch Stage

After three successful years of re-imagining the music of **Sting**, **Stevie Wonder**, and most recently **Paul Simon**, **GRAMMY® Award**-winning baritone saxophonist and composer **Aaron Lington** will present new arrangements of the classic works of one of the most successful American songwriters, **Burt Bacharach**.

The band will feature **Aaron Lington**, baritone saxophone; **Steffen Kuehn**, trumpet; **Dahveed Behroozi**, piano; **John Shifflett**, bass; and **Greg Wyser-Pratt**, drums. Lington notes, "I decided to do the music of Bacharach because of his jazz influenced harmonies, and the immense public appeal of his tunes, which usually does not go hand in hand."

Lington is a performing member and composer/arranger for 2014 **GRAMMY®**-winner **Pacific Mambo Orchestra**, a 20 piece, San Francisco-based musical group leading the rebirth of the Latin big band sound. The orchestra uses the traditions of the classic mambo-craze orchestras of the 1950s to deliver their original music and clever, modern arrangements of classic songs. This elite group of the Bay Area's finest musicians was voted as the **Best Band** of the "2014 Best of the Bay" in the ***San Francisco Guardian Reader's Poll***.

Six-time **GRAMMY® Award** winner **Burt Bacharach** is one of the most accomplished popular composers of the 20th Century. In the 60s and 70s, he was a dominant figure in pop music, racking up a remarkable 52 Top 40 hits. Combining elements of jazz, pop, Brazilian music and rock, Bacharach created a unique new sound that embodied the time. **Hal David**, Bacharach's primary collaborator, supplied Bacharach's music with lyrics worthy of the best Tin Pan Alley composers.

aaronlington.com

Plena Libre

*Sun, Aug 9

California Theatre Stage

Four-time **GRAMMY®** nominees **Plena Libre** has captivated and moved audiences over the course of their eighteen-year, thirteen-album career. This fine-tuned 12-piece Puerto Rican ensemble of virtuoso musicians has only gotten better with age, serving as the torch bearers of Puerto Rico's plena and bomba.

Plena Libre infuses their contemporary Caribbean compositions with a deep sense of the unique indigenous musical traditions that developed on the island over a century ago. The ensemble features five vocalists singing in lush three and four part

harmonies. With an aggressive, tight, yet sensitive style that balances the traditional with the contemporary, the global and the local, Plena Libre creates a brand of music and live performance that is both profoundly Puerto Rican and universally appealing.

Using the straight two-beat of the plena, the simple elegance of plena rhythms reflect the inclusive spirit of the music and encourages audiences to dance with carefree abandon. Dance is a vital component of Plena Libre's live performances, with their concerts featuring elaborate, visually stunning and carefully crafted choreography. With these enticing Afro-Caribbean grooves, Plena Libre has been able to break cultural barriers around the globe, thrilling fans from the **Fez Festival** in Morocco to the **Playboy Jazz Festival**.

plenalibre.com

Bria Skonberg

*Sun, Aug 9

California Theatre Stage

Award-winning trumpeter, vocalist, and composer **Bria Skonberg** is a fast-rising star on the contemporary jazz scene. First known for her knowledge of classic jazz and instigative nature, she is now creating an adventurous style rooted in New Orleans jazz and blues, world percussion, soul, and cabaret.

Hailing from Chilliwack, British Columbia, Skonberg's first professional gig came at age 16 as a big band singer, doubling on trumpet. She has since performed at over 50 jazz festivals and has headlined at **Symphony Space**, **Birdland**, **Dizzy's**, and **Cafe Carlyle**. She has performed with the likes of **Nicholas Payton**, **Anat Cohen**, **Scott Robinson**, and **Bucky Pizzarelli**. The musician has even experimented with electronic effects and presented a gig fusing jazz and stand up comedy.

Bria Skonberg has recently been honored with a **New York Bistro Award** as "**Outstanding Jazz Artist**" and swept the **2014 Hot House Jazz Magazine Awards** in all categories nominated: **Best Jazz Artist**, **Best Trumpet**, **Best Female Vocalist**, and **Best Group** for the **Bria Skonberg Quartet**. Skonberg is an active volunteer at the **Louis Armstrong House Museum** in Corona, Queens and co-producer of the **New York Hot Jazz Festival**. Her debut U.S. release, 2012's **So Is The Day**, peaked at #7 on the **Jazz Radio Charts**. Her latest album, **Into Your Own**, was released in 2014.

briaskonberg.com

Marina & The Kats

*Sat, Aug 8

Blues Stage

Fondly referred to as the "smallest big band on the planet", **Marina & The Kats** revive the spirit of '40s jazz with hot grooves, enchanting melodies, driving beats, and the utterly gorgeous voice of charming Marina Zettl. What started as a leisurely encounter at the bar Kombüse (Graz, Austria) changed the course of the Marina & The Kats' creative approach. Driven by unbridled curiosity and the desire to pay tribute to swing pioneers, such as the late **Django Reinhardt**, the musicians formed a trio of guitar, bass, and drums, propelled by an enticingly powerful voice.

Whether performing their retro swing originals or covering the likes of **Queens Of The Stone Age**, the group takes audiences on a ride through a nostalgic musical landscape, painted in glamorous Technicolor and accompanied by a heavenly swinging soundtrack. Marina & The Kats truly live by their slogan: Swing! Swing! Swing!

marina-thekats.com

Tebo's Howlin' Wolf Review

*Sat, Aug 8

Blues Stage

Accomplished producer and bassist **Frank "Tebo" Thibeaux** brings his signature blend of funky blues with a Zydeco twist to **Tebo's Howlin' Wolf Review**. Working with a vast range of artists from **Herbie Hancock** to **MC Hammer** to **John Lee Hooker, Jr.**, the artist has earned two **GRAMMY®** nominations. With material from his two blues-inspired albums **Swamp Man** and **State of Mind**, Tebo always brings an exciting and captivating live show.

facebook.com/frank.thibeaux

Guitar Fest 2015 with Hristo Vitchev, Terrence Brewer & Rick Vandivier

*Sat, Aug 8

Silicon Valley Stage

Guitar Fest 2015 presents three of the Bay Area's leading jazz guitarists on one stage - **Hristo Vitchev, Terrence Brewer, and Rick Vandivier**. Joined by a stellar rhythm section, their colorful interaction and improvisational interplay serves as a tribute to modern guitar master **Pat Metheny**.

Bulgarian-born and San Francisco-based impressionistic chamber jazz guitarist and composer Hristo Vitchev has been called one of the newest and most innovative voices in modern jazz guitar. Captivating audiences across the globe, the musician has already released seven critically acclaimed albums as a bandleader, plus four releases as a co-leader.

Jazz guitarist Rick Vandivier has performed with the likes of **Smith Dobson, David Grisman, John Handy, Richie Cole** and **Dr. Lonnie Smith**. A graduate of **Berklee School of Music** and **San Jose State University**, the musician also studied privately with Metheny and **Mick Goodrick**.

Terrence Brewer is an in-demand bandleader, producer, performer, studio musician, and music educator. He has performed to sold-out crowds at the **Monterey Jazz Festival, Yoshi's**, and the **San Francisco Jazz Festival**. Brewer has also produced eight albums that have had several top ten appearances on the national jazz charts.

hristovitchev.com

rickvandivier.com

terrencebrewer.com

Adrianna Marie and Her Groovecutters

*Sun, Aug 9

Blues Stage

Whether she's singing a haunting, slow blues ballad or a lowdown shuffle, **Adrianna Marie** is a mesmerizing performer. She digs deep into blues and roots music with a sense of timing and soulful delivery that draws listeners in and leaves them spellbound.

Daughter of members of the '60s folk group **The Carolee Singers**, her musical education began at an early age. As a small child, Marie traveled up and down the eastern seaboard with her musical parents and her desire to sing and perform began to grow. She was influenced heavily by the sounds of the '60s and the music played in her home -- everything from **The Kingston Trio** to **Louis Jordan** and **Memphis Minnie**.

Top blues guitarists have accompanied Marie's eclectic folk, jazz and blues vocals, including **LA Jones, Wali Ali, and John Marx**. She recently lent her vocal talents on the **Mannish Boys** album **Double Dynamite**, which won the 2013 **Blues Music Award** for **Best Traditional Blues Album**.

In 2012, Adrianna Marie released a self-titled CD on **Delta Groove Records**, which featured Marx, **Bill Stuve, David Kida, Rand Chortkoff, Fred Kaplan, and Ron Dziubla**. Other recordings include **Spellcaster** and **Can't Change It**. Adrianna Marie's latest project, **Double Crossing Blues** is due out July 27.

adriannamarieandhergroovecutters.com

Liv Slingerland

*Sun, Aug 9

Blues Stage

Liv Slingerland, a guitarist and singer-songwriter based in Los Angeles, has a distinct sound inspired by a fusion of modern rock and blues. A past winner of the San Jose Jazz **Youth Blues Band Competition**, Slingerland's songwriting is altogether catchy, gritty, and mature. Having grown up immersed in rock n' roll, punk, and the blues, she recognizes the power of raw emotion and simplicity when coupled with great songwriting. Her music is full of a palpable angst, but with a continually maturing sound and identity well beyond her years.

Slingerland has studied under guitar instructors **Steve Trovato** and **Timothy Kobza** at the **University of Southern California's Thornton School of Music** and with **John Garcia** at **San Jose's School of Blues**. She has been mentored by fellow blues guitarist **J.C. Smith**, who brought his protégé on stage during his San Jose Jazz Summer Fest 2010 set when she was only 16. With her debut album **Cherries and Candy** and follow-up demos, Liv Slingerland continues to prove herself to be an electrifying young musician.

livslingerland.com

Legally Blue

*Sat, Aug 8

YP Gordon Biersch Stage

Legally Blue's authentic sound comes from rare, vintage guitar amps, a classic Hammond B3 organ, and the soulful voice of **Joanne Wegener**.

Formed in 2010, the group brings together five talented musicians from Northern California: Wegener, **John Keating**, **Mike West**, **Chris Wilder**, and **Aart de Geus**. Alone, each member has performed in different groups, nationally and internationally; but together they are joined by their love of music and the blues. Mixing original and classic blues standards with their own surprises, Legally Blue creates a nostalgic sound that's impossible to sit still to.

legallyblue.com

Round Midnight

*Sat, Aug 8

YP Gordon Biersch Stage

Round Midnight, a four-piece instrumental jazz ensemble, was formed by four musicians who wished to play their own style of jazz and jazz fusion. Based in San Jose, the musicians have played together for years in Top 40 and vocal bands, and now bring their own stylings to the game.

Formed in 2004, Round Midnight has been playing clubs, parties and festivals consistently ever since. The ensemble released their first album, 2010's **We'll be Right Back**, featuring original compositions and jazz standards. The band enjoys playing with an emphasis on spontaneity and improvisation. With soulful renditions of such iconic artists as **Van Morrison**, Round Midnight is not to be missed.

Jessica Johnson

*Fri, Aug 7

YP Gordon Biersch Stage

Bay Area vocalist and songwriter **Jessica Johnson** has the audience held in the palm of her hand from the moment she walks on stage. With her rich, sultry voice and R&B stylings, she will melt your heart.

Johnson has had a love for music since she can remember. She began formal vocal training at a young age and went on to compete in every Bay Area competition she could find, garnering an impressive array of awards. As an adolescent, the vocalist started singing the national anthem for the **San Jose Sharks**, which led to her singing the anthem for every notable professional sports organization on the West Coast, including the **San Francisco 49ers** and the **San Jose Earthquakes** at their recently completed new stadiums.

Johnson has been featured at countless venues up and down the West Coast, including previous editions of the **San Jose Jazz Summer Fest**. Her debut album **Till it Happens to You** can be found on iTunes. Johnson's 2014 crowd funding campaign has fueled her current recording project, which will result in three EPs to be released later in 2015.

jessicajohnsononline.com

Greg Johnson

*Sat, Aug 8

YP Gordon Biersch Stage

Saxophonist **Greg Johnson** is a promising young figure on the jazz scene. Equally at home in multiple genres, he has developed a unique musical style that combines jazz, classical, and pop music into something uniquely new.

Johnson has appeared in concert and on mainstream recordings with jazz greats including **Curtis Fuller, Billy Taylor, Dick Oatts, Jay Anderson, Alan Pasqua, Peter Erskine,** and **Bob Mintzer**. He has appeared on stage with pop and rock & roll acts such as **Saint Motel, Robin Thicke,** and **Barry Manilow**.

As a composer, Greg Johnson's music has been heard and performed around the world in both jazz and classical contexts. He currently resides in Los Angeles where he serves as **Interim Professor of Music** at the **University of Southern California**. Johnson has released three of his own recordings -- *Invisible*, *GJ3*, and *City People*, and has contributed to dozens more.

gregjohnsonjazz.com

Mason Razavi's Quartet Plus

*Sun, Aug 9

Silicon Valley Stage

Bay Area jazz guitarist **Mason Razavi** brings to Summer Fest an evocative jazz aesthetic featured on his latest release, *Quartet Plus*. A longtime composer, educator, and bandleader rooted in jazz, Razavi's diverse musical background inspires compositions that are altogether innovative. The gifted musician has devoted his life and studies to classical and jazz guitar, offering his introspective playing to settings ranging from rock bands to accompanying concert choirs to classical solo performances. Razavi has performed at the **Wilshire Ebell Theater, Paradise Rock Club,** the **San Jose Repertory Theater,** as well as countless other venues as both a sideman and bandleader. An avid educator, Razavi joined the faculty at **De Anza College** in 2014 and has conducted clinics for **San Jose State University, South Bay Guitar Society,** and the **Vancouver Classic Guitar Society**.

Quartet Plus, which showcases original music for jazz quartet and nonet, is both steeped in the jazz tradition and forward reaching at the same time. The music ranges from stirring ballads to driving backbeats, from odd time signatures and deep rhythms to sing-able melodies and lyrical improvisation. *Quartet Plus* is a perfect confluence of beautiful guitar music, lush arrangements, and contemporary sounds.

masonrazavi.com

San Jose Jazz High School All Stars

*Sun. Aug 9

YP Gordon Biersch Stage

(Additional appearance on the Next Gen Stage, Day/Time TBA)

Now in its 17th season, **San Jose Jazz High School All Stars** are earning impressive reviews for their performances while providing some of the Bay Area's most gifted high school jazz musicians with advanced opportunities to grow and develop.

Dr. Aaron Lington, a 2014 **GRAMMY® Award** winner and director of the **Jazz Studies** program at **San Jose State University**, leads this group comprised of young musicians from 14 regional schools. The All Stars have received unanimous "command performance" ratings in both big band and combo formats at the **Santa Cruz Jazz Festival**.

The audition-based big band and combo perform throughout the Bay Area, including such locales as the **Computer History Museum, Santa Cruz Jazz Festival, San Jose Museum of Art, San Jose's San Pedro Square Market, San Jose State University Jazz Festival, San Jose Jazz's Winter Fest** and **Summer Fest, "TOSPS Tuesdays"** downtown music series, and more. Auditions take place in November each year.

sanjosejazz.org/high-school-all-stars

San Jose Jazz Summer Camp Combo

*Sun, Aug 9

Kaiser Permanente Main Stage

The **2015 Summer Jazz Camp Combo** is a talented group of high school students who excelled at **San Jose Jazz's** recent **Summer Jazz Camp @ Valley Christian**. The musicians selected represent the spirit of the camp, which is to "Play the Possibilities."

Designed for middle and high school students with backgrounds ranging from intermediate, the camp is led by Director **Wally Schnalle**, a well-known drummer and jazz educator. Held in June, at Valley Christian High School's state-of-the-art **Conservatory of the Arts**, the camp offers all-day immersion in every aspect of jazz, from theory to performance. Each student participates in both a small ensemble and a big band. Students gain extraordinary experience in performance, music theory, improvisation, composition, ear training, performance and more.

sanjosejazz.org/summer-jazz-camp

Summer Fest 2015 - Ticket Information:

San Jose Jazz Summer Fest employs tiered pricing that enables early buyers that plan ahead to save big! Each time more artists are announced, prices increase, reaching Gate Price levels on August 4, 2015.

Advance Purchase (May 11 - Aug. 3)/Gate (Aug. 4 - 9)

GA: 3-Day Pass \$55/\$70

All Stages: 3-Day Pass \$65/\$90

Priority Access: 3-Day Pass \$155/\$170

VIP: 3-Day Pass \$325/\$345

*Single day tickets online Advance Purchase, May 11 - August 3 | Prices: Aug. 7 (\$15), Aug. 8 (\$20), Aug. 9 (\$20)

*Single day tickets, Gate Price, online August 4 - 9 and at the gate | Prices: Aug. 7 (\$20), Aug. 8 (\$25), Aug. 9 (\$25)

*Children (Ages 5 - 12): \$5/Day or \$15/3-Day Pass; 3-Day passes now available, single day tickets on sale May 11.

About San Jose Jazz

Founded in 1986, San Jose Jazz is a public benefit corporation celebrating jazz as a dynamic, evolving art form and is producer of the annual San Jose Jazz Summer Fest and Winter Fest. With its eclectic music programming and innovative educational offerings, San Jose Jazz preserves the jazz tradition while actively supporting the next generation of performers within the genre and beyond. Summer Fest has become the flagship annual cultural event of Silicon Valley featuring the world's most acclaimed artists and the region's brightest emerging talent.

San Jose Jazz is dedicated to the enrichment of the South Bay music and arts scene by providing eclectic year-round free weekly performances, pop-up jazz shows at Bay Area institutions and their latest "Music Mobile" program appearing at parks, schools, urban events and corporate campuses. Standout education initiatives ensure a vital connection with the greater community through San Jose Jazz's elementary public school-based Progressions, the two-decade old San Jose High School All Stars, and 19th Annual Summer Jazz Camp.

San Jose Jazz produced its first Winter Jazz Series in 1987; its first jazz festival was produced in 1990, and in 1993, it debuted their first youth education program. The evolution of San Jose Jazz coincides with Silicon Valley's spirit of invention and the prospering redevelopment of downtown San Jose, CA. Cornerstones of San Jose Jazz's mission to keep jazz and its related genres thriving are to honor the South Bay's diverse culture through the discovery of new music and implement opportunities for the community to unite around the arts. San Jose Jazz is proud to say the annual Summer Fest is one of the largest Latin music festivals in the country. For more information, please visit sanjosejazz.org.

Media Contact:

Jesse P. Cutler, JP Cutler Media, 510.338.0881, jesse@jpcutlermedia.com

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