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29TH ANNUAL SAN JOSE JAZZ SUMMER FEST
Friday, August 10 – Sunday, August 12, 2018
Plaza de César Chávez Park, Downtown San Jose, Calif.
Event Info: summerfest.sanjosejazz.org

Artist Additions to SJZ Summer Fest 2018 Lineup:

ConFunkShun
Johnny Gill
Paula West with the Adam Shulman Trio
Barbara Morrison
Bobbito DJ Set + Film Screening of *Rock Rubber 45s*
Kiefer
John Santos Quartet + Orestes Vilató, Bobi Céspedes and Jose Roberto Hernandez

New Festival Attractions:

**The Sobrato Organization Main Stage Simulcast, KCSM & KCXU Live Broadcasts,
SoulandJazz.com Live Performance Video Shoot, Expanded VIP Lounges, SJZ Club Crawl**

San Jose, Calif. -- Silicon Valley's premier annual music event, **San Jose Jazz Summer Fest 2018** returns for its 29th festival season from Friday, August 10 through Sunday, August 12 in and around Plaza de César Chavez Park in downtown San Jose, Calif. A showcase for jazz, blues, funk, R&B, salsa, world and related genres, SJZ Summer Fest is nationally recognized as one of the biggest Latin festivals in the country. A standout summer destination for music lovers and families alike, the three-day event includes 120+ performances on 12 stages, attracting tens of thousands of visitors to downtown throughout the weekend.

The 29th Annual San Jose Jazz Summer Fest 2018 features an acclaimed lineup of both world-renowned artists and homegrown Bay Area talent for one of North America's foremost festivals. Today, San Jose Jazz announces its final round of confirmed artists including **ConFunkShun; Johnny Gill; Paula West with the Adam Shulman Trio; Barbara Morrison; Bobbito (DJ Set); Kiefer; John Santos Quartet + Orestes Vilató, Bobi Céspedes and Jose Roberto Hernandez;** and a screening of Bobbito's new film, ***Rock Rubber 45s***. San Jose Jazz's latest artist confirmations are in addition to its electrifying world-class performance lineup of artists such as **Kool & the Gang; Herb Alpert and Lani Hall; Lalah Hathaway; Booker T.'s Stax Revue: A Journey Through Soul, Blues and R&B; Goapele;** and many others. For a full listing of artists appearing at SJZ Summer Fest 2018, please visit: summerfest.sanjosejazz.org

New Attractions for 29th Annual San Jose Jazz Summer Fest 2018

Sponsored by **ANA**, the latest attraction at SJZ Summer Fest 2018 is **The Sobrato Organization Main Stage** simulcast set to live broadcast headlining acts on a 9x16 feet backdrop. The screen guarantees festival patrons exceptional sightlines to Main Stage performances. With the simulcast new to this year's production, Main Stage sets will certainly prove to be unforgettable musical experiences throughout the entire three-day festival.

Two local radio stalwarts **KCSM** and **KCXU** will broadcast live from SJZ Summer Fest 2018 showcasing select artists at the Heritage Bank Cafe Stritch Stage and SJZ Boom Box Stage. On Saturday, August 11, KCSM captures four standout performances from the Heritage Bank Cafe Stritch Stage, including concerts by **Sylvia Cuenca Quartet (12pm)**, **Sandy Cressman and Homenagem Brasileira (2:30pm)**, **Erik Jekabson Quintet (5pm)**, and **Jackie Gage (7:30pm)**. All weekend, San Jose community radio station KCXU simulcasts

from the SJZ Boom Box Stage to fans located within the downtown San Jose area. Artists include **Jessica Lá Rel** (Aug. 10, 6:15pm), **Jimette Rose** (Aug. 10, 8:15pm), **School of Rock San Jose** (Aug. 11, 1pm), **Made By Crooks** (Aug. 11, 2:45pm), **Yassou** (Aug. 11, 4:45pm), **Ghost & The City** (Aug. 11, 6:45pm), **SJZ U19s** (Aug. 12, 1pm), **No Water After Midnight** (Aug. 12, 2:45pm), and **Oakadelic** (Aug. 12, 4:45pm). Broadcasts will be available on KCSM 91.1FM and KCXU 92.7FM.

2018 Fest-goers with Priority Access or higher wristbands will have access to the **British Airways Music Lounge**, featuring pared down performances by top Fest artists at a brand-new space: **Hammer 4**. An alternative “black box” space on an upper floor of the Hammer Theatre Center, the 200-capacity Music Lounge is the perfect supplement to top-tier performances in the Hammer Theatre’s 500-seat Sobrato Auditorium. Thanks to the support of British Airways, San Jose Jazz has teamed up with the UK’s soulandjazz.com and San Jose State University for HD and Virtual Reality filming with Sennheiser audio of four Music Lounge performances: **Sarah McKenzie**, **Tiffany Austin**, **Aaron Abernathy** and **Makaya McCraven**. All video production will be directed by film students attending San Jose State University. Set for post-festival release, Soulandjazz.com’s videos provide an enduring, up-close look at performances by many of the festival’s most dynamic emerging acts.

Expanded beyond its previous footprint within Plaza de César Chavez Park, the Santa Clara County Citizens for Responsible Development VIP Pavilion is among three enhanced areas for VIP guests to enjoy craft beers and wine, catered foods, and a photo booth. Located in a shady grove above the Plaza’s iconic water fountains, the VIP Pavilion has an exclusive view of the Sobrato Organization Main Stage area with a dedicated sound system. New to 2018, VIP lounges will also be located on the ground floor of the Hammer Theatre Center, and the VIP Viewing Deck presented by *San Francisco* and *Silicon Valley Magazine* is located next to Bank of America (125 S Market Street, San Jose). The VIP Viewing Deck provides a view of Main Stage artists to allow VIPs to socialize without missing a beat of their favorite performers. VIP sponsors also include Justin’s Catering and District 7 Wines.

With the unfortunate closure of one of San Jose Jazz’s longtime community partners Gordon Biersch Restaurant, the Sushi Confidential Stage will now present the talent initially scheduled for the Gordon Biersch Stage. Sushi Confidential Stage offers yet another great reason to cruise down San Pedro Street during the festival to see exciting sets on their recently constructed patio, which is conveniently located across the street from the Swing Stage.

Additional festival sponsors include Google for their support of the El Taurino Stage, and Adobe presenting artists on the Silicon Valley Stage. SiliconSage Builders sponsors the Mayor’s Jazz Brunch on Saturday, Aug. 11. Upwards of a dozen buskers spread across the festival grounds also provides an excellent opportunity for artists who haven’t yet been selected for the festival stages, but who can participate in the festivities. Submissions are open until July 18: <https://summerfest.sanjosejazz.org/get-involved/perform>

As Fest stages wind down, tons of fun awaits with the SJZ Club Crawl. San Jose Jazz works with an array of hotels, restaurants and bars to program great jazz all over downtown San Jose from mid-evening until midnight. There are no cover charges, and all venues are in easy walking distance of the Fest grounds. Highlights include Tango Jazz Quartet (Hilton San Jose, Aug. 11, 9pm-12am), Spangalang featuring Tony Lindsay (GlassHouse, Aug. 11, 10pm-12am), and many other artists listed on summerfest.sanjosejazz.org/lineup/club-crawl

Highlights of Newly Confirmed Artists @ 29th Annual San Jose Jazz Summer Fest 2018

For more than four decades, **ConFunkShun** has carried the torch of funk music and remains one of the most recognized bands in the genre today. Their chart-topping discography has influenced scores of artists through the latest generation. In 1976, ConFunkShun signed to Mercury Records and over the following decade, released a star-studded collection of eleven albums. With iconic hits like “Got to Be Enough” and legendary slow-jams like “Love’s Train,” the band assured their place in funk history with four albums going gold, and one platinum. Sampled by countless R&B and hip-hop artists, traces of their hits can be heard on a wide variety of albums. Released in 2014, ConFunkShun’s album *More Than Love* smoothly adapts to a modern studio sound while retaining the funky drive of their early efforts.

Multi-platinum R&B icon **Johnny Gill** has dazzled listeners worldwide for over thirty years. From his role in New Edition to his acclaimed solo career, Gill’s soul-stirring vocal performances have stood the test of time and continue to grow stronger with his latest album and national tour, *Game Changer*. Gill’s voice on New Edition’s *Heart Break* (1988) topped the charts with the hit “If It Isn’t Love,” propelling the band into a more refined sound that ensured their longevity. After New Edition disbanded, Gill’s 1990 self-titled album launched a wildly successful solo career, with singles like “My, My, My” and “Fairweather Friend.” Gill’s latest release features the R&B legend’s velvety vocals as supple as ever, with a special appearance by New Edition on the single “This One’s for Me and You.”

From the Great American Songbook to folk classics, **Paula West** sings with a creative impulse to make each song her own. Inspired by musicians like Bob Dylan, West adapts a wide variety of music into a jazz context. Both her studio albums and live performances brim with soulful sophistication and imagination. West has performed at distinguished engagements such as the White House’s

celebration of American writers, and has collaborated in the studio and onstage with many jazz legends such as Bobby Hutcherson, Rosemary Clooney and Peter Bernstein. Her latest album, *Live at Jazz Standard*, showcases her silky vocals atop the sensitive accompaniment of the late George Mesterhazy quartet.

In 2010, National Public Radio members, listeners and staff voted **Barbara Morrison** as one of the "50 Greatest Jazz Vocalists," in the November issue of *All About Jazz*. Her melodic three-and-a-half-octave vocal range is known worldwide, as are her rich interpretations of jazz standards, blues classics, and original contemporary music. A staple on the jazz scene, Morrison is a three-time GRAMMY Award nominee with more than 20 albums under her own name. Over the years, she's performed with Dizzy Gillespie, Ray Charles, Etta James, Dr. John, and Terence Blanchard. Morrison has also guest-starred with the Count Basie Orchestra, the Clayton-Hamilton Orchestra and Doc Severinsen's Big Band. Celebrating its 10th Anniversary in 2018, the Barbara Morrison Performing Arts Center remains a vital 99-seat theatre that houses the California Jazz and Blues Museum, in the Leimart Park District of Los Angeles.

The **Jazz Beyond** series, co-curated in partnership with San Jose Jazz and local production house **Universal Grammar**, presents buzzy stars pushing the boundaries of jazz, soul and hip-hop. For SJZ Summer Fest 2018, Universal Grammar welcomes back to the decks NYC native **Bobbito García** following a special screening of his latest film, *Rock, Rubber, 45s* at the San Jose Museum of Art (6:30pm doors, 7pm start) with a post-screening Q&A session on Friday, August 10. Lauded as a freelance creative with an indelible footprint on multiple urban movements, during the 1990s García was a legendary on-air radio personality with the "Stretch and Bobbito" program on WKCR. The duo introduced the world to an unsigned Nas, Biggie, and Wu-Tang, as well as an unknown Jay-Z, Eminem, and the Fugees. In 1998, the *Source* magazine voted them as "The Best Hip Hop Radio Show of All Time." At SJZ Summer Fest 2018, Bobbito a.k.a. Kool Bob Love spins an all 45s set on the 1s and 2s at The Continental Bar at 12am. The event is free to those with All Stages or higher wristbands; single tickets are \$5/\$10 and can be purchased at ungramr.com or at the door.

Rock, Rubber, 45s is a cinematic odyssey exploring global basketball, and sneaker and music lifestyles through the firsthand lens of authentic NYC culture orchestrator Bobbito García. Center stage is García's youth as he deals with mistreatment, educational quandaries, identity, and loss as well as his self-determined ascension to an incredibly successful life. The ballplayer/author/DJ/filmmaker has carved an independent career that has inspired millions, and has affected the growth and direction of the footwear, hip-hop, and sports industries in the process. Alongside García, *Rock, Rubber, 45s* features Lin-Manuel Miranda, Rosie Perez, Stevie Wonder, Questlove, Chuck D, Talib Kweli, Spike Lee, and many others.

Kiefer has shared the stage with Moses Sumney and Terrace Martin, lent production talents to the likes of Kaytranada and Anderson .Paak, and studied under renowned jazz guitarist Kenny Burrell at UCLA's Jazz Studies program. Inspirations for Kiefer's latest album *Happysad* include jazz titans Herbie Hancock and Bill Evans, as well as label mates Karriem Riggins and Knxwledge. Paste Magazine names *Happysad* as one of "The 10 Albums We're Most Excited About in June 2018." The album was also included in Mixmag's "Six Artists You Need to Check Out This Month (June 2018)."

Drawing from Cuban rhythms and forms such as son, rumba, mambo, bolero and danzón, **John Santos** features a spectacular ensemble at SJZ Summer Fest with Latin jazz masters Orestes Vilató, Bobi Céspedes and Jose Roberto Hernandez to join his Quartet onstage. The group will perform iconic classics from Latin America, as well as original compositions and arrangements, all reflecting the deep African roots of Caribbean-based music. Pioneering Cuban percussionist Orestes Vilató has worked with Ray Barretto, Fania All-Stars, Santana and many others, and beloved Afro-Cuban diva Bobi Céspedes has helped keep the spark of Cuban musical traditions alive in the Bay Area for the last four decades.

Standout CD Release Concerts & Premieres @ 29th Annual San Jose Jazz Summer Fest 2018

Saxophonist **Kristen Strom** is a mainstay of the Bay Area jazz scene for nearly two decades, playing with well-known bands and leading her own quintet. With her latest project *Moving Day – The Music of John Shifflett*, she interprets compositions of the legendary local hero: bassist **John Shifflett**, who passed in 2017. Strom played with Shifflett in her own quartet and countless other projects for more than 25 years. Although he was well known as a first-call sideman in many of the Bay Area's foremost ensembles, it is not common knowledge that John Shifflett (1955–2017) composed many compelling and unique pieces of music. For the premiere of her tribute to Shifflett, Strom puts the spotlight on his compositions at this special CD release concert as she performs alongside many of the best regional artists, including several of Shifflett's dearest friends, to celebrate his music.

GRAMMY Award-winner Aaron Lington delves into tango's sensual sound with his new small ensemble jazz project, *Plays the Music of Astor Piazzolla*. A major figure in Argentinian music, Piazzolla is highly regarded as a virtuoso instrumentalist who has stayed true to his roots. Having completed a Piazzolla arrangement for Tommy Igoe's celebrated group, Lington goes all in for his SJZ Summer Fest show featuring classics such as "Libertango," "Escualo" and "Soledad." For previous Summer Fests, Lington explored the songbooks of Burt Bacharach, Ray Charles, Paul Simon and Sting. Both a treasure and pillar of the Silicon Valley jazz scene, Lington is a professor and the Coordinator of Jazz Studies at San José State University and director of San Jose Jazz's High School All Stars.

The newly minted **SJZ Collective** highlights Silicon Valley's top musicians performing in tribute to **Thelonious Monk** with **SJZ Collective Reimagines Monk**. The brainchild of Silicon Valley drummer and *DRUM!* Magazine contributing editor **Wally Schnalle**, SJZ Collective continues last year's centennial celebration of Monk by presenting original arrangements of many of his famous songs, including "Straight No Chaser," "Round Midnight," "Teo and Shuffle Boil," "Bolivar Blues," and many others. As global ambassadors of San Jose Jazz and of the Silicon Valley jazz community, San Jose Jazz will tour the SJZ Collective to Taiwan following their SJZ Summer Fest show. Taichung International Jazz Festival (Oct. 16: Taichung) has invited SJZ Collective to perform, and club dates include appearances at Sappho Jazz Club (Oct 17: Taipei) and Blue Note (Oct 18: Taipei).

Octobop delivers some of the best grooves in West Coast jazz. The octet's Summer Fest set will celebrate the drop of their 7th album, *Live At Savanna Jazz*, following the success of earlier releases (*Very Early*, *Out of Nowhere*, and *West Coast Christmas*). It was recorded live at one of the venues rated by *Downbeat* magazine as being among the best jazz clubs in the United States. On *Live At Savanna Jazz*, fans can experience the music, the energy, and fun of the octet. Since 1999, Octobop has presented a musical tour-de-force through the 1950s showcasing this incredible period for jazz music on the West Coast including innovations in sound, harmony and arranging, which impacted how we listen to music today.

Get ready for an exceptional lineup of acclaimed artists appearing at the 29th San Jose Jazz Summer Fest 2018!

29th Annual San Jose Jazz Summer Fest

When: August 10 - 12, 2018

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

Admission: summerfest.sanjosejazz.org/buy-now

More info: summerfest.sanjosejazz.org; 408.288.7557

SJZ Summer Fest 2018 Artist Lineup

Friday, August 10 – Sunday, August 12

Kool & the Gang; Herb Alpert and Lani Hall; Lalah Hathaway; ConFunkShun; Booker T.'s Stax Revue: A Journey Through Soul, Blues and R&B; Goapele; Johnny Gill; Yissy & Bandancha; Nachito Herrera Trio; Vincent Herring's Story of Jazz: 100 Years; Paula West with the Adam Shulman Trio; Jane Monheit; Barbara Morrison; Bobbito; John Santos Quartet + Orestes Vilató, Bobi Céspedes and Jose Roberto Hernandez; Sarah McKenzie; Kishi Bashi w/ Strings; MAE.SUN; Marcus Roberts' Romance, Swing and Blues; Big Sam's Funky Nation; Legally Blue; Theo Croker Quartet; Kat Edmonson; Kiefer; Makaya McCraven; Emmet Cohen Trio; Sara Niemietz and Snuffy Walden; Christian Tambuur and Dominick Farinacci; Wayne Wallace Latin Jazz Septet; 3rd Annual Jazz Organ Fellowship with Matthew Whitaker and Brian Charette; Delvon Lamarr Organ Trio; Pascal Bokar Afro Blue Grazz Band; Billy Valentine Big Band; Evan Thomas Blues Band; SJZ Collective Reimagines Monk; Tango Jazz Quartet; Sylvia Cuenca Quartet; Sandy Cressman and Homenagem Brasileira; Jemal Ramirez Group with Warren Wolf; Yoshiaki Miyanoue; Changüí Majadero; Orquesta Son Mayor; Rumbankete; Boogaloo Assassins; Kristen Strom: Moving Day—The Music of John Shifflett; Aaron Abernathy Trio; Doug Beavers; Lydia Pense & Cold Blood With Fred Ross; Mitch Woods and His Rocket 88's; Alastair Greene Band; Andre Thierry; Eddie Gale; Jessica Lá Rel; YASSOU; Ghost & the City; Eugenie Jones; Organic Trio; Steve Bedi & Special 'X'; Jackie Gage; La Tenaza Tango Son; Maxx Cabello Jr.; Tom Rigney; Jeff Denson: Outside My Window; Kat Parra Latin World Ensemble; Mason Razavi Nontet; Erik Jekabson Quintet; Katie Thiroux Trio; Eric Alexander; Jimetta Rose; School of Rock San Jose; Jeremy Crooks; SJZ U19s; No Water After Midnight; Synchronicity; 7th Street Big Band; Jessica Johnson; San Jose Jazz High School All Stars; Retro Notes; Rataatet; Nasa Ames Jazz Band; Arnie Co Nonet; Never Weather; South Bay Big Band Jazz; SOJ Big Band, Top Shelf Big Band; LGS Big Band; The Serenaders; Millennium Sounds; Swing Solution; Octobop; Full Spectrum Big Band; Footnotes; The Lyratones; Monterey Jazz Festival High School Honor Vocal Jazz Ensemble; Gold Lion Arts Cosmic Garden; Monterey Jazz Festival High School All-Star Band; The Nick Panoutsos Quartet; The Genius Wesley Project; Mr. Clifford's Young Jazz All Stars; East Bay High School All Stars; Echoes; Mariachi Los Toritos; Gail Dobson's Vocals for Kids with the Gail Dobson Band; and many more!

Artist interviews are available upon request.

Ticket Information

Four distinct levels of access are offered to best experience SJZ Summer Fest. VIP, Priority and All Stages levels allow access to all outdoor stages plus four indoor venues: the beautiful Hammer Theatre, intimate Cafe Stritch and Jade Leaf Lounge, plus iconic Club Regent at the Fairmont San Jose hosting the Silicon Valley Stage, offering many of the festival's premier, world-class artists indoors in air-conditioned, acoustically-rich environments. *General Admission (GA)* gives basic access to all outdoor stages only. Three-day passes: GA: \$55 advance May 16–July 31, \$70 gate; *All Stages* (includes all indoor venues, except the Music Lounge): \$90 advance May 16–July 31, \$110 gate; *Priority Access* (skip-the-line privileges, access to the Music Lounge and more): \$220 advance May 16–July 31, \$240 gate; *VIP* (exclusive Main Stage seating, complimentary food and drink, garage parking, VIP lounge at Hammer Theatre

Stage, enhanced VIP area at The Sobrato Organization Main Stage): \$385 advance May 16–July 31, \$425 gate. Single day tickets, ranging from as low as \$15 for GA to \$175 for a VIP experience purchased in advance, May 16–July 31; see website for benefits and pricing. All ticket prices will increase to Gate Price on August 1.

3-Day Pass Adult VIP (\$385 advance; \$425 gate)

Includes Reserved Main Stage Seating Sat & Sun, Free Food & Beverages in Exclusive VIP Pavilion, Priority Access to All Indoor Fest Venues, Complimentary Garage Parking During Festival Hours

3-Day Pass Adult PRIORITY ACCESS (\$220 advance; \$240 gate)

Skip the Line at All Indoor Fest Venues, Access to Music Lounge performances, \$20 in Beverage Tickets

3-Day Pass Adult ALL STAGES (\$90 advance; \$110 gate)

Access to ALL Indoor & Outdoor Fest Venues, except the British Airways Music Lounge

3-Day Pass Adult GENERAL ADMISSION (GA) (\$55 advance; \$70 gate)

3-Day Pass Child (\$15)

Admission for one child aged 5-12, with access to stages and hospitality areas at SJZ Summer Fest according to the access level of an accompanying adult. This low-priced ticket is designed to allow families to affordably enjoy the Fest and is not discounted from the Gate Price.

Single Tickets (On sale now)

(\$15 – \$175 advance, May 16–July 31; \$20 – \$190 beginning August 1)

Friday, August 10: VIP \$75 advance, May 16–July 31, \$90 beginning August 1; Priority Access \$45 advance, \$55 beginning August 1; All Stages \$30 advance, \$35 beginning August 1; GA \$15 advance, \$20 beginning August 1.

Saturday & Sunday, August 11-12: VIP \$175 advance, May 16–July 31, \$190 beginning August 1; Priority Access \$95 advance, \$110 beginning August 1; All Stages \$40 advance, \$45 beginning August 1; GA \$20 advance, \$25 beginning August 1.

<https://summerfest.sanjosejazz.org/buy-now>

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 singular 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. For more information, please visit sanjosejazz.org.

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