“DC Jazz Festival amplifies DC’s arts and culture scene by connecting music enthusiasts to the nation’s capital with electrifying performances at unique music venues all over the city.” – Destination DC
OUR MISSION

Capital Sounds, Global Reach

- **PRESENT** internationally world-renowned and emerging artists in celebration of jazz
- **UNIFY** diverse communities and enable connections between artists and audiences
- **ADVANCE** jazz and music education by providing exciting, adventurous and diverse music experiences for audiences of all ages and backgrounds
- **EMPLOY** DC-based jazz musicians
- **HIGHLIGHT** DC as a historic and vibrant center for jazz music; and as a premier cultural destination

Winner of the 2018 DC Mayor’s Arts Award for “Excellence in Creative Industries”
What a week it’s been—I love when our city is taken over by jazz
– Muriel Bowser, Mayor of the District of Columbia

The best concert experience—simply perfection
– Destination DC

From the Washington glamour of the Kennedy Center to the far-flung, homier landmark, The Big Chair, it’s an effective formula for putting the city’s inherent breadth on display
– Downbeat Magazine

Jazz connoisseurs from around the world have finally caught on
– The Washington Post

A special, uplifting weekend
– The String Queens

Breathtaking variety of jazz
– Downbeat Magazine

Reader engagement and interaction far exceeded our benchmarks in the lead up to the festival.
– Condé Nast Traveler

Photos: Fritzphotographics.com
— Record-breaking total attendance of 148,459 with DC JazzFest at The Wharf hosting 45 diverse programs on multiple stages & 117,000 attendees, a 310% increase from 2018.

— The DCJF advertising campaign featuring 38 digital and online channels, 16 major national and regional publications, and 4 radio, television and out-of-home outlets, generated more than 21,000,000 media impressions—an increase of 25% from 2018.

— 167 events in 25 neighborhoods citywide. Jazz in the ‘Hoods expanded to 40 clubs, hotels, galleries, libraries and community centers featuring over 300 musicians.

— DC JazzFest at National Gallery of Art boasted more than 8,300 attendees.

— Jazz ‘n Families Fun Days at The Phillips Collection celebrated the synergy between jazz and the visual arts with over 4,600 attendees.

— The newly updated DCJF website fielded 230,111 number of visitors in the weeks leading up to the Festival.
— Two extraordinary nights at The Anthem included Snarky Puppy and José James’; as well as Jon Batiste & Stay Human’s Bayou funk, straight-ahead jazz, and New Orleans traditions, including a second line from the stage to The Wharf promenade—complete with Mardi Gras beads!

— Breakthrough attendance at DC JazzFest at The Wharf with over 117,000 across the weekend featured a diverse menu of artistry from across the globe including Joshua Redman, Michael Franks, Sean Jones, Joey Alexander, artist-in-residence Terri Lyne Carrington, and many more.

— A full house finale at The Kennedy Center, Great Masters of Jazz, hosted by Nick Cannon, celebrating Quincy Jones, Nancy Wilson, Shirley Horn, Roy Hargrove, and DC’s own Fred Foss with tributes by Patti Austin, Kenny Garrett, Cassandra Wilson, Sharón Clark, Joshua Redman, Justin Kauffman, and the Roy Hargrove Big Band.

— A heartwarming celebration of the great NEA Jazz Master Randy Weston at The Kennedy Center.

— Anat Cohen, Haliu Mergia, and Cécile McLorin Salvant left crowds in awe at The Hamilton Live.

— Trumpeter Etienne Charles’ Creole Soul party at City Winery
— DC JazzFest at The Wharf presented by Events DC featured an unprecedented international mix of artistry, four free outdoor stages on three piers, and a festival experience unmatched.

— The Anthem, DC’s mega showcase room, included a New Orleans Throwdown with Jon Batiste & Stay Human, Stephen Colbert Show’s rousing house band, with opener Brass-A-Holics and plenty of Mardi Gras beads; and Snarky Puppy grooved 21st century fusion as José James brought his Bill Withers project to the packed audience.

— The International stages featured free concerts on two stages with artists from around the globe including Denmark, Bolivia, Canada, Finland, Australia, Luxembourg, Italy, South Africa, and Russia.

— Pearl Street Warehouse hosted the 4th Annual DCJazzPrix™ Band Finals—won by the Durham, NC-based band Ernest Turner Trio.

— The Education Village sponsored by Giant featured a Meet the Artist and Founder’s Conversation tents, with instrument demonstrations presented by Chuck Levin.

— The Kennedy Center hosted two super evenings rejoicing in jazz mastery, including remembering the legacy of NEA Jazz Master Randy Weston, and Festival-closing Great Masters of Jazz concert hosted by Nick Cannon.

— In Ivy City, City Winery returned with two diverse evenings, including the trio SPAGA from Philadelphia, and Caribbean trumpeter Etienne Charles celebrating Trinidad’s carnival rhythms and traditions.
— **Downtown, The Hamilton Live** presented Grammy-winning vocalist Cécile McLorin Salvant, Israeli clarinetist Anat Cohen and the Éthiopiques sounds of keyboardist Hailu Mergia.

— Cutting edge CapitalBop D.C. JazzLoft presented edgy jazz blowout on two outdoor stages in **Southwest’s Buzzard Point**, with vocalist Georgia Anne Muldrow, Justin Brown’s NYEUSI and local favorite Brent Birckhead.

— **Gateway DC in the Congress Heights** neighborhood featured the Chuck Brown Band and a mix of jazz and go-go.

— **The Anacostia and Downtown Business Improvement Districts** played a featured role with outdoor stages featuring local craftmakers and food vendors.

— **Jazz in the ‘Hoods presented by Events DC** hosted 80 exceptional shows at over 40 venues, including The Kennedy Center Millennium Stage; East River Jazz; Mr. Henry’s; Anacostia Bus Boys and Poets; JazzAlive at UDC; Wild Days; Ivy City Smokehouse; Twins Jazz; | Atlas Performing Arts; Gallery O on H; The Brixton; Busboys and Poets; Bin 1301; Sotto DC; the National Gallery of Art Sculpture Garden and more.
The DC Jazz Festival and The Phillips Collection continued its partnership, hosting the hugely popular Jazz ‘n Families Fun Days with 4,600 in attendance.

Families celebrated the synergy between jazz and the visual arts. The entire weekend was presented free of charge, as our gift to the community!

Jazz ‘n Families Fun Days featured a fun scavenger hunt, storytelling for toddlers, a jammin’ instrument petting zoo, gallery talks, and hands-on craft workshops. The celebration featured performances by a dozen exceptional regional artists including the Herman Burney Trio and the Jazzin’ AfterSchool students, David Schulman, Coniece Washington & Friends, Donvonte McCoy Quartet, Nasar Abadey Trio, Reginald Cyntje Group, Herb Scott Quartet, Todd Marcus Quartet, Howard Franklin Quartet, Brad Linde’s Team Players, Michael Thomas Quintet, Dánte Pope and After Five Experience.

The Festival’s partnership with The Phillips Collection allows us to provide memorable jazz and art experiences for parents and children alike.

—DCJF Executive Director Sunny Sumter
DCJF Music Education Program provides free and low-cost education to 6,200 DC public and charter school students, teachers, and their families in underserved communities. From early childhood to adult learners, programs enhance the lives of children with robust engaging events.

“These events have been valuable in exposing our children to live performance that is very difficult to afford otherwise.” — DCJF Music Education Program Parent

— Through jazz-inspired books and interactive lessons, DC Jazz Bops!, with major support from the Wells Fargo Foundation, establishes early music skills, foundational math and literacy skills, and aids in socio-emotional development for Pre-K learners.

— Jazzin’ InSchool presented programs to DC public school students including Tyler Elementary School, KIPP Academy and Bishop Walker School for Boys.

— The Jazzin’ AfterSchool class, led by renowned bassist and teaching artist, Herman Burney, gives young musicians opportunity to develop on their instrument, learn jazz history, and build confidence and interpersonal skills. Students participated in two master classes with some of DC’s finest musicians and performed at Jazz ‘n Families Fun Days.

— Founders Tent Conversations and Meet the Artist activities launched this year, joining the Artist-In-Residence program providing up close and personal introductions to world-renowned artists and educators.

Donate to the DCJF Music Education Program today,
Contact Skylar Rea at skylar@dcjazzfest.org.
The Meet the Artist Series gives fans up close and personal opportunities to interact with artists off the bandstand. Such programs are a vital to demystifying jazz for both avid audience members and those new to the festival.

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE EDUCATION VILLAGE SPONSORED BY GIANT
— Jazz and gender equity panel with 2019 artist-in-residence Terri Lyne Carrington
— Downbeat Magazine Blindfold Test with Ralph Peterson, and interviews with Sean Jones, Michael League of Snarky Puppy, Jon Batiste, Joey Alexander, Michael Franks, and Joshua Redman
— Founder’s Tent-Festival founder Charles Fishman engaged in intimate conversations with Festival artists, including DMV favorite Paul Carr, The String Queens, South African pianist Witness Matlou, and artist-in-residence Terri Lyne Carrington.
This year, the DC Jazz Festival crowned the Ernest Turner Trio the DCJazzPrix™ winners, following the highly competitive finals at Pearl Street Warehouse, part of DC JazzFest at The Wharf presented by Events DC.

The Ernest Turner Trio, based in Durham, NC, competed against two impressive bands: Mixcla (Boston, MA), and AmyAna (CA and DC). All three bands thrilled the packed house and significantly raising the degree of difficulty for judges’ deliberations.

In addition to the grand prize of $15,000, the Ernest Turner Trio will have a year-long professional development engagement with the DC Jazz Festival and a highly visible 2020 DCJazzFest engagement.

All three finalists will play a New York City engagement at the Tribeca Performing Arts Center, part of Tribeca PAC’s annual Jazz in Progress Emerging Bands series.
The DC Jazz Festival®, a 501(c)(3) non-profit service organization, and its 2019 programs are made possible, in part, with major grants from the Government of the District of Columbia; Muriel Bowser, Mayor; with awards from the National Endowment for the Arts, the DC Commission on the Arts and Humanities, an agency supported in part by the National Endowment for the Arts; the Office of Cable Television, Film, Music & Entertainment; the Office of the Deputy Mayor for Planning and Economic Development; and, in part, by major grants from the Doris Duke Charitable Foundation, the Galena-Yorktown Foundation, The Morris and Gwendolyn Cafritz Foundation, Wells Fargo Foundation, Gillon Family Charitable Fund, the NEA Foundation, Venable Foundation, The Dallas Morse Coors Foundation for the Performing Arts, The Max and Victoria Dreyfus Foundation, The Leonard and Elaine Silverstein Family Foundation, and the Reva & David Logan Foundation. ©2019 DC Jazz Festival. All rights reserved.

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Since 2004, the DC Jazz Festival organization has provided enriching and entertaining jazz programs that introduce students and adults from all walks of life to jazz, our nation’s singular original art form. DCJF presents a selection of the jazz genre’s most acclaimed artists as well as emerging artists, and provides enhanced exposure for the rich treasure trove of musicians from the Washington, DC area. Throughout the year, the DCJF nourishes the community with free educational programs that extend our reach into underserved communities and enhance the quality of life for DC public and charter school students.

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Get Involved with the DC Jazz Festival

To learn more about institutional engagement, contact Sunny Sumter at sunny.sumter@dcjazzfest.org.

Interested in our Circle of Friends or Jazz in the ‘Hoods programs, contact Skylar Rea at skylar@dcjazzfest.org.

Interested in the DC Jazz Festival story, contact Kimberly Homer at kimberly.homer@dcjazzfest.org.