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HARTFORD PUBLIC LIBRARY'S BABY GRAND JAZZ CONTINUES THROUGH APRIL

Baby Grand Jazz returns with support from The Kaman Foundation

(Hartford, CT) – Hartford Public Library's (HPL) popular Baby Grand Jazz Series celebrates its 20th season with the support of a generous three-year sponsorship from The Kaman Foundation. The free series features accomplished jazz musicians and bands from around the region. HPL will continue to host the Baby Grand Jazz series Sunday afternoons through April in the Center for Contemporary Culture (CCC) at the Downtown Library. The Kaman Foundation has been funding Baby Grand Jazz since 2015, and their sponsorship will support the successful concert series and provide for continued growth, fostering a love and appreciation for modern America's original art form, Jazz. Baby Grand Jazz is celebrating its 20th season in 2024 at the same time that the HPL is celebrating our 250th anniversary year.



Concerts are held Sundays at 3:00 p.m. (doors open at 2:00 p.m.). The 2024 seasonal lineup pay homage to the past 20 years while celebrating the future of jazz.

March 3 – Thread City Jazz Trio: Thread City Jazz Trio started playing together in 2014; their first CD was released in January, 2023, and another is planned for 2024. Pianist Anthony Cornicello is a Professor of Music at Eastern Connecticut State University. Rick O'Neal plays bass for a few regional bands, including Delta Generators and Straight Up Jazz. He studied music at Eastern Connecticut State University, where he now works, as well as at the Pomfret School, and the Complex Center for the Arts. Percussionist Matthew Bronson studied music education from Western and holds a Masters of Music from the University of Minnesota Duluth. He is an adjunct Professor at Eastern. Learn more at <https://threadcityjazz.com/>

Anthony Cornicello, piano | Rick O'Neal, bass | Matt Bronson, drums

March 10 – Andrew Wilcox Trio: Andrew Wilcox, originally from Boylston, Massachusetts, is one of Hartford's rising young musicians. He was a student of Rick Germanson, Ralph Peterson, Orrin Evans, and the late Stanley Cowell. Andrew played alongside Jazzmeia Horn at the Newport Jazz Festival. He is a regular member of the Haneef Nelson Quintet and Ed Byrne Quartet, among other groups. The trio features Andrew Wilcox, Avery Sharpe and Yoron Israel. Mentored by both Sharpe and Israel, Andrew's original compositions and arrangements are at the forefront of the trio's repertoire. Andrew's debut record (coming later in 2023), features this unit. Learn more at <https://andrewwilcoxmusic.com/>

Andrew Wilcox, piano | Avery Sharpe, bass | Yoron Israel, drums



March 17 – Nicole Zuraitis: Connecticut native, Nicole Zuraitis is a Grammy winning and two-time Grammy-nominated jazz singer-songwriter, pianist and arranger, New York-based bandleader and winner of the prestigious 2021 American Traditions Vocal Competition Gold Medal. With a “heart as big as her remarkable voice,” (Jazz Police), Nicole has positioned herself as one of the top artists and "prolific songwriters" (Broadway World) to watch in jazz and beyond. As a recording artist, Nicole has released five albums as a leader, and her sixth album *How Love Begins*, co-produced with eight-time Grammy-winner Christian McBride, released July 7th, 2023, featuring all original music. It was nominated for Best Jazz Vocal Album for the 2024 Grammy awards. Learn more at <https://www.nicolezmusic.com/>

Nicole Zuraitis, voice/piano | Dan Pugach, drums | Idan Morim, guitar | Sam Weber, bass

March 24 – The Matt DeChamplain Quartet: In February of 2023, virtuoso jazz violinist Jason Anick and pianist Matt DeChamplain recorded an entire album in one day. "Reverence: A Tribute To Stephane Grappelli and Oscar Peterson" is a tribute to their early musical heroes. The album features compositions by Grappelli and Peterson, some pieces that the two aforementioned masters recorded together during the 60's and 70's, and two pieces by Anick and DeChamplain. "Reverence" features New York bassist Eduardo Belo and guitarist Matt Munisteri, whose work with Mark O'Connor and Catherine Russell has been internationally recognized. The album ranges from swing to bebop to jazz manouche and displays a diverse range of compositions. Learn more at www.jasonanick.com and www.mattdechamplain.com

Matt DeChamplain, piano | Jason Anick, violin | Eduardo Belo, bass | Matt Munisteri, guitar

This season, while construction is progressing within the Downtown Library, customers are asked to use the Arch Street entrance to access the CCC during Baby Grand Jazz. The doors are to open at 2:00 p.m. and the concerts are from 3:00-4:00 p.m., Sundays, January – April. All shows will continue to be streamed on Hartford Public Library's [Facebook page](#) and [YouTube channel](#).

Baby Grand Jazz at Hartford Public Library is sponsored by the Kaman Foundation. Longtime partners include the Hartford Jazz Society and WWUH 91.3 FM. For more information, visit:

www.hplct.org/classes-seminars-exhibits/baby-grand-jazz

About Hartford Public Library: Founded as the Library Company in 1774, and over its 250 years, Hartford Public Library has remained at the forefront of redefining the urban library experience in the 21st century. With seven locations throughout the city, the library provides education, intellectual enrichment, and cultural development for thousands of children, youth, and adults every year. Hartford Public Library has also gained local and national recognition for its wide range of new initiatives and partnerships designed to meet the needs of a diverse and dynamic city and region, including immigration services, employment assistance, and youth leadership training. For more information, visit hplct.org

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