

2015 Fest Performer(s) Information

On the Willow Stage

11 AM Matt Wigler

Matt Wigler first played on a JazzFest stage in 2008, at age 14. It's been a pleasure to see him mature as an artist in the intervening years. Matt's first album "13" was recorded when he was 13 years old; since then he has released several more recordings, and played piano and Hammond organ on well-known artists' CDs. Matt studied piano at the Manhattan School of Music and at Miami University's Frost School of Music. In 2010 he was selected as an Artist in Residence at Strathmore; he has appeared on many major festivals, including the Monterey Bay Blues Festival, Telluride Jazz Festival, the Chesapeake Bay Blues Festival, and many others.

12:10 PM The Hokum Jazz Trio

The **Hokum Jazz Trio** first played at JazzFest's 8th show, in 2003. This group is one of the producer's favorites, because they play pop, jazz, and blues tunes of the '20's and 30's, when all American music experimented with style, form and context ... and because they sound great! The inestimable **Esther Haynes** is the leader; she sings lead and har-mo-ny vocals and plays guitar. Esther has degrees in Voice and Professional Music Performance from the Berklee College of Music. Rounding out the trio: **J. C. Veve** sings and plays lead guitar, and **Richard Seidel** plays bass and sings har-mony.

1:20 PM Dave Kline Band

The Dave Kline Band is one of the most versatile groups to ever grace the JazzFest stage. They blend the modern genres of rock, blues, jazz and folk with music from the ancient cultures of Africa, the Caribbean, the Middle East, and Latin America. The Dave Kline Band amazed us with their great musicianship at our 2004 festival. Dave is a fiery electric violinist; he has been performing since 1972, sharing the stage with the likes of Chick Corea and Veronneau. His compositions are as interesting as his playing, and he doubles on guitar. Dave has released several albums of original music- more is on the way. With Dave are **Fernando Mojica** on electric guitar (Fernando is also an accom-plished music educator, teaching around the country at guitar workshops and directing music camps); bassist **Willard Morris** (who also doubles on electric violin, keyboards, and more); and **Jon Laine** on drums (Jon has played with Aretha Franklin, Stevie Wonder, Charlie Byrd, and Jimmy Heath).

2:40 PM Takoma Park Middle School Jazz Ensemble

The Takoma Park Middle School Jazz Ensemble appeared on JazzFest in 2013; they have headlined two very suc-cessful fundraisers at El Golfo Restaurant. **Holly Pasquale** leads this fine group; her mastery of teaching music, espe-cially jazz, is apparent in every note they play.

3:50 PM Brulee

Brulee is one of our new acts, they won their way onto our stage by taking first place in our February fundraiser/contest, the "Jazz Band Brawl", held this year at the new Busboys and Poets in Takoma DC. The members of Brulee are **Aura Kanegis** (lead vocalist), who has performed regionally with the U-Liners, the Cravin' Dogs and Quintessential in venues including the 9:30 Club, the Barns at Wolf Trap, the Kennedy Center, and the United Nations; **Louis Matza** (guitar, uku-lele, vocals), who has played guitar and written for bands from North Carolina to Berkeley, California; **Andrew Brown** (bass and vocals), who played classical and jazz bass for a decade while living in Austria and travelling through Europe; he holds a Ph. D. in Music Acoustics; and **Lex O'Brien** (drums, vibes, and vocals), who plays a wide variety of styles and genres, including performances with jazz greats George Benson, Joe Farrell, and Victor Lewis. Lex is the founder of jazz ensemble "ComplexBlue."

5:00 PM Chuck Redd Salutes the Great Guitars

Chuck Redd first appeared at JazzFest in 1999, when he played drums with the Charlie Byrd Trio, with Joe Byrd on bass. It rained during their set, and the sound system was turned off, but Charlie played on using battery power. The first song he played was "Blue Skies"! Since then, Chuck has been invaluable to us, finding some amazing musicians to be our headliner artists and workshop clinicians. Chuck plays and tours extensively with top professionals such as Bucky Pizzarelli, Ken Peplowski, Barney Kessel and Terry Gibbs. He teaches in clinics at universities and festivals across the U. S. Chuck was a Smithsonian Artist in Residence from 2004 to 2008. **Nate Najar** is one of the "great guitars" Chuck is bringing to us. Nate is originally from St. Petersburg, FL. He has performed with many notable musicians, including Buster Cooper, Bucky Pizzarelli, John Lamb, and Chuck Redd. Nate's discography is extensive; his most recent release is 2014's "Aquarela Do Brasil". **Wayne Wilkinson**, from San Antonio Texas, played in our area with the Airmen of Note, and with the Alan Baylock Big Band, a Jazz Brawl winner that was scheduled to play JazzFest 6, but got rained out. Wayne teaches guitar at Colorado State; he has performed with Ernie Watts, Henry Mancini, and Stanley Turrentine. His latest CD, a guitar trio, is entitled "Full Circle". The third great guitar is **Adam Moezinia**; Adam started studying jazz guitar at Los Angeles County High School for the Arts. He has received many honors as a student, culminating with a performance with Wynton Marsalis at the Monterey Jazz Festival. Adam now attends the Julliard School of Music, studying with many jazz greats, and teaches at national and international jazz workshops. Playing bass with the group is one of the best, **Tommy Cecil**. He has played with many great touring jazz artists, and has several fine CDs to his credit.

On the Gazebo Stage

11 AM After Hours Duo

Nicole Saphos' After Hours Duo is the newest act to repeat from a past festival; we had much positive feedback from both the crowd and JazzFest staff on their playing. Nicole plays bass with an intense joyfulness; her compelling voice will put a smile on your face. She has been in D. C. only since 2012; she's already played at some of the area's finest venues, including Bohemian Caverns and the Kennedy Center. Nichole's partner, **Ele Rubenstein**, a Takoma Park native, began playing drums as a youth, developing a passion for jazz early on. He has a degree in Jazz Performance from Temple University, and now plays locally with many outstanding groups.

12:10 PM Flutevisions

Flutevisions leader **Arch Thompson** first appeared on JazzFest in 2009 as a member of "Sabroso", a Latin jazz group. After discovering jazz was his true love, Arch performed and toured with the U. S. Army band; and also attended the Army conservatory of music. He has studied with many high-level musicians on both the East and West coasts; he moved to Puerto Rico to further his studies in Contemporary Latin Jazz. Arch has played with many master musicians, including Steve Turre, Dave Valentin, Jerry Gonzalez, and Stefon Harris. Playing with Arch today are **Leonardo Lucini** on bass, and **Cesar Orozco** on piano.

1:20 PM Lovejoy Group

The Lovejoy Group initially played at the Jazz Band Brawl in 2004; they didn't win, but a video of their performance won for Takoma City TV a second place in a national public TV competition. They first played on JazzFest in 2009. **Karen Lovejoy** is a versatile performer, comfortable in blues, jazz and pop. She moved to this area from the Midwest; she has fallen in love with the great jazz of the DC area. Her smooth style will win over any audience. Her group today consists of drummer **Lawrence "Bubbles" Dean**, pianist and musical director **Jerry Allen**, and **Bob Shan** on upright bass.

2:40 PM Mary Alouette Quartet

Mary Alouette is one of our newest and most versatile artists. She is a regional award-winning song writer, performing in both D. C., and in NYC under the name Alarke. She is also a gypsy jazz specialist, earning an Artist in Residence spot at Strathmore Music, and has won several Wammy awards including New Artist of the Year and Best Debut Album. She teaches songwriting with Washington Performing Arts Society, and at the Bethesda Writer's Center. **Seth Kibel** is one of the area's best woodwind specialists. Seth is a featured performer with the Alexandria Klezmer, Bay Jazz Project, and has appeared at JazzFest with the Natty Beaux. He has won 28 Wammie awards; his new solo album "No Words" was released in April on Takoma Park's Azalea City Records. **Ethan Phillion** is a DC-based bassist, composer, and band leader. He has played with many top jazz artists, and appeared in such famous venues as Millennium Park, Severance Hall, and the Kennedy Center. In March Ethan was selected to take part in Betty

Carter's Jazz residency, and was also selected as a semi-finalist in the International Society of Bassists' Jazz Competition. **Cristian Perez** is an Argentine guitarist/composer with a strong foundation in classical, jazz and South American music. He has studied with many important jazz musicians including Mike Stern, Mark Brandt and Rick Whitehead since moving here in 2002, and he has also performed in many master classes.

3:50 PM UpTown Vocal Jazz Quartet

The Uptown Vocal Jazz Quartet (UVJQ) first played at JazzFest 6 (May 18, 2001). Since the 1990's they've been steadily increasing their fan base to include listeners from five continents. The UVJQ has been interviewed on NPR's "Weekend Edition" and on streaming broadcasts on Sirius XM's Real Jazz channel, Pandora Radio, and many other outlets. UVJQ artists are **Ginny Carr** (leader, composer and arranger); singers **Robert McBride, Holly Shockey, and Andre Enceneat**; the rhythm section: **Alan Blackman** on piano, **Max Murray** on bass, **Steve Herberman** on guitar, and **Frank Russo** on drums. UVJQ's latest CD, "Vocal Madness," features Ginny's arranging and compositions, and sax great Richie Cole appears on several tunes. The group hopes that this recording makes the Billboard Top 25 Jazz Albums Chart, as did their last release, 2012's "Hustlin' For a Gig."

5:00 PM Veronneau

Lynn Veronneau, from Quebec, has a warm, compelling voice; her riveting stage presence draws the audience into her world. She has performed in Canada, Europe, and the U. S., winning several Wammies for jazz and a French language children's recording. **Ken Avis** plays guitar, sings, and is the group's leader. Ken was a vocalist for five years with the award-winning Otis Grand Blues Band. He also writes jazz articles and reviews for the U. S. Jazz Journal, and for D. C.'s Capitol Bop magazine. Ken is a Strathmore Artist in Residence, and in 2014 co-produced the documentary "Bossa Nova, the Brazilian Music That Charmed the World." **David Rosenblatt**, guitarist, has studied Brazilian music since his youth. He is the go-to guitarist for D.C.'s Brazilian artists. **Bruno Lucini** is the drummer; he is from Rio De Janeiro, and has recorded with many of our local Latin jazz groups. Veronneau released its recording "Jazz Samba Project" in 2012; it has been listed at the top of both national and local record charts.