



13-18.06.2025

9TH jazztopad
FESTIVAL NEW YORK

FRI, JUNE 13
DAVID RUBENSTEIN ATRIUM
AT LINCOLN CENTER
MICHIYO YAGI AND
HAMID DRAKE DUO
WITH WACŁAW ZIMPEL

SUN, JUNE 15
BARBÈS
NED ROTHENBERG &
SATOSHI TAKEISHI
WITH SPECIAL GUEST

SAT, JUNE 14
DAVID RUBENSTEIN ATRIUM
AT LINCOLN CENTER
WACŁAW ZIMPEL, ARUN RAMAMURTHY
& BROOKLYN RAGA MASSIVE
WITH SPECIAL GUEST AMIR ELSAFFAR

TUE, JUNE 17
DIZZY'S CLUB AT JAZZ AT LINCOLN CENTER
MACIEJ OBARA NYC QUARTET
FEATURING JOHN PATITUCCI,
NASHEET WAITS
& DOMINIK WANIA

SUN, JUNE 15
RIZZOLI BOOKSTORE
PATRICIA BRENNAN & MACIEJ OBARA DUO

WED, JUNE 18
DIZZY'S CLUB AT JAZZ AT LINCOLN CENTER
IMMANUEL WILKINS &
LUTOSŁAWSKI QUARTET
WORLD PREMIERE

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VOXNEWS

PROUD VOCALISTS

BY TESSA SOUTER

In honor of Pride Month, TNYCJR acknowledges the extraordinary contributions of LGBTQIA+ jazz musicians, past and present, including iconic jazz vocalist **Andy Bey**, who publicly came out in the mid '90s after being diagnosed as HIV positive, and who at 85 died in April at The Actor's Fund Home in New Jersey. Jazz has a storied history of being protest music, particularly regarding the civil rights movement, but has long been curiously quiet about gay and queer civil rights. Jazz vocal legend **Mark Murphy**, whose orientation was an open secret, said near the end of his life that an unrealized dream of his was to have been able to perform songs openly addressing a man, using he/him instead of female pronouns. Vocalists **Chris Connor**, **Carmen McRae**, **Billie Holiday**, **Ma Rainey** and **Bessie Smith** were known to be LGBTQIA+ within their musical communities, but it wasn't common knowledge in the outside world, for fear that it would have damaged their careers. **Theo Bleckmann's** beautiful rendition of *The King and I's* "We Kiss in a Shadow" (from his 2006 album *Las Vegas Rhapsody: The Night They Invented Champagne*) says it all in Oscar Hammerstein II's lyric: "Alone in our secret, together we sigh, for one smiling day to be free to kiss in the sunlight and say to the sky: Behold and believe what you see! Behold how my lover loves me!" Let us hope, that the current government-sanctioned anti-DEI cuts in the arts and elsewhere does

not herald a return to those days.

GRAMMY- and Tony Award-winning drummer, composer and vocalist, **Bryan Carter** inaugurated "Jazz at Pride" at Dizzy's Club in 2019 after discovering there were no Pride events at any prominent NYC jazz venues. It has since become an annual event with fellow LGBTQIA+ artists in a celebration of community, creativity and connection to create an inclusive space (Jun. 11-12). "Jazz at Pride" is also a non-profit organization dedicated to curating performances and education engagements featuring world-class artists from the LGBTQIA+ community.

Non-binary, pansexual actor and 10-time GRAMMY-nominated vocalist **Janelle Monáe**, and iconic vocalist, actor (and celebrated gay icon) **Grace Jones**, headline the Blue Note Jazz Festival at the Lena Horne Bandshell, Prospect Park, Brooklyn (Jun. 9), as part of the annual BRIC Celebrate Brooklyn! Soon-to-be 69-year-old **Johnny O'Neal** is at Cellar Dog (Jun. 3) and Zinc Bar (Jun. 9). First and foremost a pianist (he played in the bands of Art Blakey, Milt Jackson and Clark Terry), he is now celebrated as much for his singing. Definitely a "singer's singer" (with a flock of vocalists always in attendance wherever he plays), his new album is the aptly titled *Everybody Loves Johnny O'Neal* (Cellar Music). The effortlessly swinging **Dena DeRose** has a new album, *Mellow Tones* (HighNote), featuring her regular band: Martin Wind (bass) and Matt Wilson (drums) plus Ed Neumeister (trombone).

LOOKING FORWARD TO...

The eight-time GRAMMY-nominated Baylor Project featuring **Jean Baylor** and husband, drummer Marcus Baylor at the Blue Note (Jun. 17-19). Three-time Juno award-

winning Canadian vocalist, **Caity Gyorgy**, at Dizzy's Club (Jun. 22): a songwriter who composes music and lyrics in the style of the Great American Songbook, she's also a wonderfully spontaneous performer and great scatter. Her new album, *Asking for Trouble*, is a duo featuring the music of Frank Loesser, with pianist Mark Limacher. (Keep an eye out for *Caity Gyorgy with Strings*, coming in August.) Also at Dizzy's Club, **Marion Cowings'** "Like Father Like Son" with his son, tap dancer-vocalist **AC Lincoln** (Jun. 16) in celebration of Father's Day. Evocative singer **Naama Gheber** celebrates her latest release, the dreamy *Dream With Me* (La Reserve) at Birdland (Jun. 28). The debut album from vocalist **Paloma Chesky**, *Memory* (The Audiophile Society), features her original songs, along with some of her favorite standards, including "Corcovado", in a nod to her Brazilian heritage. Definitely one to watch, she's just getting started. Vocalist-guitarist **Camila Meza's** album release for the all-originals *Portal* (GroundUp) at Joe's Pub (Jun. 4). North Square Lounge's regular Sunday brunch, inaugurated by the late **Roz Corral**, is always worth checking out: **Kate Baker** (Jun. 1), **LaTanya Hall** (Jun. 8), **Vanisha Gould** (Jun. 22). At Smalls, drummer Tommy Campbell's Vocal Eyes (Jun. 27-28) spotlights vocalists **Ron Wilkins** and **Tiffany Gridiron Toriumi**. At Mezzrow: **Marty Elkins** (Jun. 1), **Kavita Shah** (early set, Jun. 8), **Yaala Ballin** (late set, Jun. 8) and **Lauren Kinhan** (Jun. 29).

In honor of Black and Afro-Caribbean Music Month, don't miss avant garde vocalist **Fay Victor**, bringing the vibrations of Trinidad and Tobago to Roulette as part of the Vision Festival with her Tree Trini Collective (Jun. 7). Also at Vision: **Amirtha Kidambi's** Elder Ones and **Ellen Christi's** Flux in Chaos (Jun 3).