



## **“We Always Swing”<sup>®</sup> JAZZ SERIES**

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**“WE ALWAYS SWING”<sup>®</sup> JAZZ SERIES ANNOUNCES 2019  
“JAZZ APPRECIATION MONTH” SCHEDULE.  
APRIL 1-30 CELEBRATION FEATURES 20+ EVENTS.  
DEDICATED JAZZ SERIES “JAM” WEBSITE PAGE RETURNS.  
COMPLETE CONCERT/EVENT LISTING @ WEALWAYSSWING.ORG/JAM**

### **HIGHLIGHTS INCLUDE:**

**A Trio of Key Subscription Concerts • “Jazz in the Schools” Initiative Programs  
Pair of Annual Children’s Concerts • Additional Educational & Community Activities  
Collaboration with MU School of Music & University Concert Series for “Jazz Week.”  
“Watch Party”/Live Stream of NEA Jazz Masters Tribute Concert from Kennedy Center.  
Fundraisers with three Columbia Breweries & North Coast Brewing Co.**

**10% Off ALL Jazz Series Merchandise • Hitt Records/Skylark Books Discount Jazz Titles 10%.**

**Month Culminates April 30 with “International Jazz Day” Featuring  
UNESCO-sponsored Global Concert from Australia’s Sydney Opera House  
& Worldwide Celebration in 190+ countries. Jazz Series To Host “Open House.”**

COLUMBIA, Mo. – The [“We Always Swing”<sup>®</sup> Jazz Series](http://www.wealwaysswing.org), Central Missouri’s only all-jazz, community-based, project, announced the bulk of its annual hefty month-long **April “Jazz Appreciation Month” (JAM)** schedule, today. The 30-day celebration culminates with **“International Jazz Day,”** with activities taking place around the world – as well locally in Columbia. During the **April 1-30, 2019**, run, the Jazz Series will produce more than 20 varied events including concerts, educational activities, community events and organizational fundraisers. A collaborative **“Jazz Week” – April 8-15** – is folded into the month that seeks to attract greater awareness of jazz – **“America’s Gift To The World.”**

“It’s a great deal of fun – but incredibly challenging for our staff and volunteers,” said Jon W. Poses, Jazz Series Executive & Artistic Director. “With each passing season, we try to add to the proceedings and attempt to create different highlights. The 2019 ‘edition’ of JAM is no different,” added Poses, pointing to “Jazz Week” – a first-time effort involving the Jazz Series, [MU School of Music Jazz Studies Department](http://www.mu.edu/schoolofmusic/jazzstudies) and [University Concert Series](http://www.universityconcertseries.org).

[more]

**JAZZ WEEK.** The “Jazz Week”-run serves as a microcosm of the month’s activities. On April 8, MU Jazz Combos perform in the Missouri Theatre lobby as the pre-event “Welcome” to the MU Chancellor’s Arts Showcase. The week also incorporates a pair of Jazz Series subscription concerts, the **Brad Mehldau Trio (4/9), already sold out**, and the all-but sold out **Aaron Diehl Trio (4/14)**. University Concert Series will present the **Glenn Miller Orchestra (4/13)** at the Missouri Theatre while the **18-piece MU Concert Jazz Band (4/12)** performs at The Shack in the Student Center; on April 11, the smaller **MU Jazz Combo** will host a “Happy Hour” at [Skylark Book Shop \(4/11, 5 p.m.-7 p.m.\)](#), while a day earlier **flutist/saxophonist Tony Lotven**, a veteran of and favorite among Columbia’s jazz and music scenes, leads a trio for a “Happy Hour” at [Top Ten Wines \(4/10, 6 p.m.-8 p.m.\)](#). The “JAM-packed” week extends into an eighth day, culminating **April 15**, with a [National Endowment for the Arts Jazz Masters 2019 NEA Jazz Masters Tribute Concert “Watch Party”](#) on [The Roof](#), atop The Broadway Hotel. The event will be live video-streamed from the Kennedy Center in Washington, D.C. There is no cover; a cash bar and food will be available for purchase at the event.

“This will be a great and varied week of programming,” said Josh Chittum, Jazz Series Assistant Director & Public Information Officer. “We are excited to see Jazz Week unfold; the shared activities underscore the concept of collaboration. It’s a week that features students as well as major jazz artists to go along with community-wide events. We definitely want to encourage people to take advantage of everything that is going on, not only during this week, but throughout the entire month.”

**JAZZ APPRECIATION MONTH:** The **Smithsonian Institution** first introduced the country to [“Jazz Appreciation Month”](#) in 2002. In the 17 years since the program’s modest, Washington, D.C.-centered, start, JAM has blossomed into a much more visible national endeavor with organizations across the country – many similar to the Jazz Series -- planning events throughout April. The last several Aprils, the Jazz Series embraced the opportunity to do just that – creating a weighted season concert schedule during the time frame as well as producing a multiplicity of additional events throughout the month, spearheading collaborations with other organizations and businesses along the way.

**“TAKE A SIP FOR JAZZ EDUCATION.”** Throughout the month, numerous Columbia establishments will be serving beers from North Coast Brewing Co.’s inventory, including its flagship beer, Brother Thelonious Belgian Ale. “A number of places will carry North Coast’s various beers throughout April to highlight our “Take A Sip For Jazz Education” effort. Most people aren’t aware that North Coast, during its three-decade run, has donated more than \$1M to jazz education nationally, including sponsoring the Jazz Series,” said Poses. “It’s a remarkable accomplishment and we’re happy to increase awareness of the company’s generosity.”

**INTERNATIONAL JAZZ DAY:** The month culminates with “**International Jazz Day**,” the UNESCO-sponsored, world-wide effort whose flagship moment is the “**Global Concert**” whose location “continent hops” each year. The 2019 site belongs to Sydney, Australia, where a who’s who of international jazz musicians will gather for a lengthy concert that can be video streamed live on either [JazzDay.com](http://JazzDay.com) (UNESCO’S IJD site), YouTube or Facebook. **Herbie Hancock** serves as the star-studded event’s “Ambassador,” with assistance from the formerly named [Thelonious Monk Institute of Jazz that now bares Hancock’s name](#). The 2018 concert – which took place in St. Petersburg, Russia – enjoyed 13.6 million views. “International Jazz Day” spurs thousands of organizations, spanning nearly 200 countries, to produce hundreds of concerts, educational activities, film screenings, masterclasses, exhibitions and other jazz-related activities from around the world. **The Jazz Series will host an “Open House” Celebration 4 p.m.-6:30 p.m.** at its Tenth Street location, which will be followed by the **Youth Jazz Jam of Columbia at [Fretboard Coffee](#)** that begins at 7 p.m.

**[wealwaysswing.org/JAM](http://wealwaysswing.org/JAM):** The Jazz Series, as it has done during the past several seasons, has created a **dedicated JAM website page** where people can see the organization’s most up-to-date schedule. The Jazz Series updates the page as additional events become part of the schedule.

**JAM & JAZZ EDUCATION:** Educational activities continue to play a significant Jazz Appreciation Month role, Poses emphasized. The Jazz Series, working with the Columbia Public School District, holds its **Annual Children’s Concerts** in April. This year, the “participatory performances,” which expose many younger students to jazz for the first time, take place on April 29. GRAMMY®-nominated [New York Standards Quartet](#), comprised of four veteran musicians – **saxophonist Tim Armacost, pianist David Berkman, drummer Gene Jackson** and **bassist Ugonna Okegwo** – will “host” the two concerts on that day; in part they will highlight **Duke Ellington** as the date falls on the legendary bandleader’s 120<sup>th</sup> birthday. With the assistance of Missouri Employers Mutual and U.S. Bank Foundation, additional in-school activities are planned at their respective Columbia Public School District “[Partners In Education](#)” institutions: Gentry Middle School and Alpha Hart Lewis Elementary School; a third in-school event will take place at Fairview Elementary School. To date, more than 35,000 students of all ages – elementary through university-aged – have benefited from Jazz Series education programs.

“It’s very gratifying to see our education component continue to evolve and thrive during the past two decades plus,” says Poses. “We’re now into our second generation of young students who are learning about this music and the Jazz Series. The [Von Freeman Memorial Library](#), our 7,200+ CD/LP public collection, which opened in 2013, allowing people to listen to selections daily and, once they become members, borrow titles, also serves as an educator of sorts, resulting in increased awareness of jazz, while serving to strengthen our ties to and overall presence within the community. “What could be better?” concluded Chittum, speaking rhetorically.

**THE GREAT JAZZ SERIES EDUCATION RAFFLE:** Jazz Appreciation Month again features [The Great Jazz Series Education Raffle](#), which launched March 13 and runs through April 30. Proceeds from the raffle benefit the [James Williams Jazz Series Education Program](#), which is named after the late pianist (3/8/51-7/20/04), and educator. Raffle tickets cost \$10 each, three for \$25 or seven for \$50, and are available through the Jazz Series and at all Jazz Series events. **The top prize (of three possible) is a pair of tickets – valued between \$900-\$1,000 – to the entire 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary 2019/2020 Subscription Series – likely 10 to 12 concerts in all.** Winning entries will be selected May 1 at the Jazz Series offices; people do not have to be present to win.

**“TAKE A SIP FOR JAZZ”:** During April, the Jazz Series will partner with three of Columbia’s breweries – [Broadway Brewery](#), [Flat Branch Pub & Brewery](#) and [Logboat Brewery](#). Additionally, working with Major Brands, an area distributor, the Jazz Series encourages Columbia’s restaurants and bars to serve [North Coast Brewing Co.](#) products, such as Brother Thelonious and Prangster, both Belgian style ales. Launching from Fort Bragg, Calif., in 1988, North Coast has donated more than \$1M to jazz education. While North Coast product will surface at a number of locations throughout the month, Columbia-based brewery enterprises will each support jazz education in their own way. On April 17, the Jazz Series will receive 10 percent of net proceeds at Logboat Brewery; the following day, the organization will assist Flat Branch Pub & Brewing in its 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration; each of the events will feature live music from **Greg’s Organic Green Akers**. Finally, on April 29, “Jazz Series Day” takes place at Broadway Brewery with a MU Combo, with special guests NYSQ members Armacost and Berkman, opening for the 18-piece Columbia Jazz Orchestra. “It’s a great way to move toward the end of “Jazz Appreciation Month,” said Poses, again mentioning Ellington’s 120<sup>th</sup> Birthday is that day. “We hope the musicians will sprinkle ‘Ellingtonia’ throughout the evening.”

**JAZZ SERIES MERCHANDISE/HITT RECORDS/SKYLARK BOOKSHOP 10% DISCOUNTS:** During Jazz Appreciation Month the Jazz Series will offer 10% discount on all of its merchandise, which includes clothing, glassware, recordings, books and other items. [Hitt Records](#), Columbia’s main used vinyl/CD retail outlet, and Skylark Book Shop will also offer 10% discounts on all jazz-related titles.

**THANK YOU:** The Jazz Series wishes to acknowledge and thank the many “Jazz Appreciation Month” Sponsors & Collaborators: Broadway Brewery; The Broadway Hotel/The Roof; [City of Columbia Office of Cultural Affairs](#); [Columbia Convention & Visitors Bureau](#); Flat Branch Pub & Brewing; Hitt Records; Logboat Brewing Co., [Major Brands, Inc.](#) & North Coast Brewing Company & [Missouri Arts Council](#); [Missouri Employers Mutual](#); [Missouri Lottery](#); [MU Division of Inclusion, Diversity & Equity](#); MU School of Music & MU Jazz Studies Department; [Murry’s](#); Skylark Book Shop; University Concert Series.

**ABOUT THE “WE ALWAYS SWING”® JAZZ SERIES:** Founded in 1995 as a community-based, all-jazz concert producing and educational organization, the “We Always Swing”® Jazz Series’ mission is to: present, promote, preserve and celebrate the great American art form known as “Jazz.” The Jazz Series, its performances, educational activities and publications are administered by “We Always Swing”® Inc., a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit corporation. The Jazz Series is supported by ticket sales, grants and foundations, local, regional and national sponsorships and by generous individual donor tax-deductible contributions.

### **JAZZ APPRECIATION MONTH SCHEDULE**

*[As of 3/27/19 • Most Up-To-Date Listings Found On [WeAlwaysSwing.org/Jam](http://WeAlwaysSwing.org/Jam)]*

- April 1-30: [PURCHASE TICKETS TO THE GREAT JAZZ SERIES EDUCATION RAFFLE.](#)  
10% Discount on Jazz Series Merchandise & Jazz-Related Titles at Hitt Records & Skylark Book Shop.
- April 2: "Jazz in The Schools" @ Gentry Middle School
- April 4: "Jazz in The Schools" @ Fairview Elementary School  
\*Jazz Rep Lab @ Unitarian Universalist Church, 7 p.m.
- April 8: \*Chancellor’s Arts Showcase @ Missouri Theatre, 7 p.m., MU Jazz Combo, Theater Lobby.\*\*
- April 9: Brad Mehdau Trio @ Whitmore Recital Hall, 7 p.m. [SOLD OUT]\*\*
- April 10: “Jazz in The District” featuring Tony Lotven Trio at Top Ten Wines, 6 p.m.-8 p.m.
- April 11: "Jazz in The District" featuring live music by MU Combo @ Skylark Books, 5-7 p.m.
- April 12: \*MU Concert Jazz Band @ The Shack, MU Jazz Combo, 7 p.m.
- April 13: University Concert Series Presents \*Glenn Miller Orchestra @ Missouri Theatre, 7 p.m.\*\*
- April 14: Aaron Diehl Trio @ Murry's, 3:30 p.m. & 7 p.m.\*\*
- April 15: “Watch Party,” NEA Jazz Masters Concert and Award Presentation, The Roof, 7 p.m.
- April 17: 10% Day @ Logboat Brewing Company ALL DAY, Live music from 5:30-7:30 p.m.
- April 18: \*Flat Branch Pub & Brewing's 25th Anniversary Party, Live music from 6-8:30 p.m.
- April 28: New York Standards Quartet @ Murry's, 3:30 p.m. & 7 p.m.\*\*
- April 29: Annual Children's Concert (2) @ Hickman High School With New York Standards Quartet  
Featuring: Tim Armacost, David Berkman, Gene Jackson, Ugonna Okegwo  
"Jazz Series 10% Day" @ Broadway Brewery feat. MU Jazz Combos and The Columbia Jazz Orchestra with special guests NYSQ Members Tim Armacost & David Berkman
- April 30: International Jazz Day “Open House” Celebration 4 p.m.-6:30 p.m. @ The Jazz Series  
\*Youth Jazz Jam of Columbia @ Fretboard Coffee, 7 p.m.

*[\*Non-Jazz Series produced event.]*

*[\*\*Ticketed Event/Admission Required]*