

For Immediate Release: Wednesday, December 20, 2017

2018 SAN JOSE JAZZ
**WINTER
FEST**
PRESENTED BY METRO

San Jose Jazz Winter Fest 2018, Presented by Metro

Thursday, February 15 - Wednesday, February 28, 2018

**Cafe Stritch, Schultz Cultural Arts Hall at Oshman Family JCC (Palo Alto), The Hammer Theatre,
Art Boutiki, Hedley Club @ Hotel De Anza, and other venues in Downtown San Jose, CA**

Event Info: sanjosejazz.org/winterfest

Tickets: \$5 - \$40, Fest Pass: \$260

*"Winter Fest has turned into an opportunity to reprise the summer's most exciting acts,
while reaching out to new audiences with a jazz-and-beyond sensibility." –KQED Arts*

National Headliners:

Dee Dee Bridgewater with the SJSU Jazz Band

Cyrus Chestnut Trio

Knower

International Guitar Night w/ Lulo Reinhardt, Calum Graham, Marek Pasieczny and Michael Chapdelaine

Masters of Hawaiian Music w/ George Kahumoku Jr., Led Kaapana & Jeff Peterson

Mike Clark's Four and More

Mark Guiliana Jazz Quartet

A Circle Has No Beginning by Sameer Gupta Featuring David Boyce

Benny Green Trio with Veronica Swift

Jacob Jolliff Band

Loston Harris Trio

Organ Extravaganza with Ronnie Foster

La Misa Negra

Next Gen Bay Area Student Ensembles:

Progressions Nucleo with the Stars of International Guitar Night

Kuumbwa Jazz Honor Band

Folsom High School Jazz Band

Lincoln High School Jazz Band

SJZ High School All Stars

Homestead High School

Santa Clara University Jazz Combo

San Jose, Calif. – Internationally renowned for its annual SJZ Summer Fest, the iconic Bay Area institution **San Jose Jazz** kicks off 2018 with dynamic arts programming honoring the jazz tradition and ever-expanding definitions of the genre with singular concerts curated for audiences within the heart of Silicon Valley. **San Jose Jazz Winter Fest 2018, Presented by Metro** features some of today's most distinguished artists alongside leading edge emerging musicians with an ambitious lineup of more than 25 concerts from February 15 - 28, 2018. The **Jazz Beyond** series, co-curated in partnership with San Jose Jazz and local production house **Universal Grammar**, presents buzzy young stars pushing the boundaries of jazz, soul and hip-hop and the **Next Gen** performances showcase top regional student jazz ensembles. Universal Grammar's *Jazz Beyond* events will be announced in January 2018. Tickets to San Jose Jazz Winter Fest 2018 are now on sale ranging in price from \$5 - \$40; a Fest Pass is available for \$260, and select shows are free admission. For detailed ticket information as well as updates on the artists and performance schedule, please visit: sanjosejazz.org/winterfest.

Artist Lineup Announcement -- San Jose Jazz Winter Fest 2018, Presented by Metro:

San Jose Jazz Winter Fest 2018, Presented by Metro encompasses the South First Street arts district in downtown San Jose, and for the third year expands to Palo Alto and new for this year to The Hammer Theatre and Art Boutiki. With new performance venues, bars and restaurants joining many existing cultural institutions, Winter Fest 2018 showcases San Jose's vitality as an arts mecca.

"Winter Fest is a microcosm of our Summer Fest programming that truly represents the richness of the South Bay community," said SJZ Executive Director Brendan Rawson. "We couldn't be more thrilled to have jazz icons Dee Dee Bridgewater and Cyrus Chestnut as headliners of Winter Fest, while we feature many of the world's greatest instrumentalists with International Guitar Night and Masters of Hawaiian Music. San Jose Jazz is beyond excited for the return of the Hammer Theatre in downtown and the opportunity to reach audiences in Palo Alto at the Oshman JCC. Our efforts to present inspiring artists across the San Jose metro area has a simple goal of bringing the community together through the power of music."

San Jose Jazz proudly presents the following artists at Winter Fest 2018: **Dee Dee Bridgewater with the SJSU Jazz Band; Cyrus Chestnut Trio; Knower; International Guitar Night w/ Lulo Reinhardt, Calum Graham, Marek Pasieczny and Michael Chapdelaine; Masters of Hawaiian Music w/ George Kahumoku Jr., Led Kaapana & Jeff Peterson; Mike Clark's Four and More; Mark Guiliana Jazz Quartet; A Circle Has No Beginning by Sameer Gupta Featuring David Boyce; Benny Green Trio with Veronica Swift; Jacob Jolliff Band; Loston Harris Trio; Organ Extravaganza with Ronnie Foster; La Misa Negra**, and some of the Bay Area's premier youth jazz ensembles.

Highlights of Confirmed Artists:

Over the course of a multifaceted career spanning four decades, GRAMMY® and Tony Award-winning jazz giant **Dee Dee Bridgewater** has ascended to the upper echelon of vocalists, putting her unique spin on standards. Ever the fearless pioneer and keeper of tradition, the three-time GRAMMY®-winner has performed with such jazz notables as Max Roach, Sonny Rollins, and Dizzy Gillespie. All but one of her self-produced albums has been nominated for GRAMMY® Awards, including her double GRAMMY®-winning tribute to Ella Fitzgerald, *Dear Ella*. A renowned star in both the jazz world and Off-Broadway, Dee Dee Bridgewater tours in support of her latest studio album, *MEMPHIS...YES, I'M READY*. At Winter Fest 2018, Bridgewater will perform songs spanning the course of her acclaimed career with the San Jose State University Jazz Band. Opening on this special evening will be San Jose Jazz's audition-based big band, the High School All Stars.

Virtuosic and playful, pianist **Cyrus Chestnut's** hard swinging sounds have become a staple in the jazz community. Chestnut has played with many jazz leaders including Wynton Marsalis, Freddie Hubbard, Branford Marsalis, Chick Corea, and as a soloist he's a first call for the piano chair in big bands such as the Lincoln Center Jazz Orchestra, Dizzy Gillespie Big Band, and Carnegie Hall Jazz Orchestra. *The New York Times* notes, "His brand of crisp articulation and blues inflected harmony evokes another era...multifaceted and dynamic...Mr. Chestnut was the evening's star and he brought charisma to the role..."

Flipping the switch to one *Jazz Beyond* show that San Jose Jazz can't resist announcing is **Knower**, a hot futuresonic funk-pop 5-piece ensemble centered around drummer-producer Louis Cole and vocalist Genevieve Artadi. *LA Weekly* touts "L.A. duo Knower stretches the boundaries between jazz, funk, and sanity." Producer Quincy Jones says, "Knower will be leavin' ya'll on your knees, beggin' for more." It's no wonder they've opened for The Red Hot Chili Peppers, and have clocked millions of views for their live video sessions.

Now in its 18th year of touring, **International Guitar Night** features celebrated guitarists from across the globe. This year, gypsy jazz legend Lulo Reinhardt returns to guest host and is joined by Canada's young contemporary sensation Calum Graham, Poland's innovative classical composer/performer Marek Pasieczny, and award-winning American guitarist Michael Chapdelaine. The International Guitar Night performance is made possible with support from TourWest, WESTAF, the Western States Arts

Federation, and the National Endowment for the Arts. San Jose Jazz's standout education program Progressions also presents a special Nucleo, a private event featuring youth musicians performing with the stars of International Guitar Night.

The New York Times dubs **Masters of Hawaiian Music**, "Virtuosic keepers of a cultural flame...Bringing folklore and cultural memory into a performance that unfolded as breezy entertainment." Three masters share Hawaii's unique folk styles with origins in the early 19th century Hawaiian paniolo (cowboy) culture. Featuring George Kahumoku Jr, Led Kaapana, and Jeff Peterson, the players themselves grew up in rural areas where immersion from childhood in Hawaiian music and culture was both entertainment and education. Four-time GRAMMY®-winner slack key guitarist George Kahumoku Jr is known as "Hawaii's Renaissance Man." Led Kaapana has been one of Hawaii's most influential musicians for decades, and Jeff Peterson is a star of the next generation winning the 2017 Na Hoku Award for "Best Instrumental Album." Five of Peterson's songs are featured in the award-winning George Clooney film *The Descendants*.

"He's a great jazz drummer," says jazz icon Herbie Hancock who worked with **Mike Clark** in the early 1970s. Clark's incisive playing on Hancock's "Actual Proof" garnered him an international cult following and influenced generations of drummers. He set the rhythms for the acclaimed group, The Headhunters. Along with James Brown's drummer Clyde Stubblefield, his beats with The Headhunters (most notably "God Make Me Funky") include some of the most sampled in hip-hop. At Winter Fest 2018, he presents Mike Clark's Four and More, a new collaboration with veteran bassist Peter Barshay (Kenny Barron, Freddie Hubbard), saxophonist Mike Zilber (Steve Smith), and pianist Matt Clark (Bobby Hutcherson, Joshua Redman).

Selected as "Best Jazz Drummer" in the *Modern Drummer* Readers Poll 2017, **Mark Guiliana** is widely recognized as one of the world's leading drummers across the spectrum from jazz to rock to electronic music. Motéma Music released his latest studio album, *Jersey*, in September 2017 featuring Guiliana alongside his Jazz Quartet, with bassist Chris Morrissey, saxophonist Jason Rigby, and pianist Fabian Almazan. Guiliana presents music from *Jersey* at Winter Fest 2018, and says of the project, "the Jazz Quartet is my humble attempt to make a personal statement using the traditional palette of saxophone, piano, bass and drums. How creative can we be inside this box – how much freedom and experimentation can we find? And I have to say that it's always so exciting to hear the guys play this music in ways I never could have imagined."

Benny Green possesses the history of jazz at his fingertips. Combining mastery of keyboard technique with decades of real world experience playing with no one less than the most distinguished artists of the last half century, and it's no wonder Green has been hailed as perhaps the most revered hard-swinging, hard-bop pianist to ever emerge from Art Blakey's Jazz Messengers. His most recent recordings, *Live in Santa Cruz* (2015) and *Magic Beans* (2012) (Sunnyside), are shining examples of his brilliance. At Winter Fest 2018, his trio performs with one of the country's top young jazz singers, **Veronica Swift**. In fall 2015, Swift won second place at the prestigious Thelonius Monk Jazz Competition. In 2016, she headlined at the Telluride Jazz Festival, her 10th appearance at the festival. Upon moving to NYC, she regularly appears at Birdland Jazz Club. Swift's forthcoming new album will showcase her alongside Benny Green and his trio.

Bay Area born drumset and tabla virtuoso **Sameer Gupta** continues to push the envelope with his new album, *A Circle Has No Beginning*. His latest studio album dives into deep waters by combining traditional, classical and modern improvisational styles, drawing from his dual Indian and American heritage. Gupta brings his musical story full circle at Winter Fest 2018 as he performs with Bay Area's own David Boyce (Broun Fellinis, The Supplicants, Black Edgar's Musicbox) on saxophone, electronics and EFX. *A Circle Has No Beginning* explores cultural crossover music that honors the ensemble's diversity, influences of jazz and soul music, classical music, golden-era Indian music, and the electronic movement with pure spontaneity to make a powerful sonic statement.

The Jacob Jolliff Band is the next generation of bluegrass supergroups, led by one of the country's premier contemporary bluegrass mandolinists. Before joining Yonder Mountain String Band, Jacob Jolliff founded beloved New England roots band Joy Kills Sorrow, while attending Berklee School of Music. In 2012, Jolliff had the distinct honor of being named the "National Mandolin Championship" winner. He has collaborated and shared the stage with Sam Bush, Ronnie McCoury, Jerry Douglas, Chris Thile, and David Grisman. The Jacob Jolliff Band includes the mandolin player's longtime partner-in-crime, Alex Hargreaves, on fiddle. One of best improvising violinists in the world, Hargreaves is the winner of "The Grand Masters Fiddle Championship" and "The National Oldtime Fiddlers' Contest," and he's a member of Turtle Island String Quartet. On guitar is bluegrass upstart Stash Wyslouch, founder of The Deadly Gentleman. Bassist Jeff Picker tours with bluegrass phenom Sarah Jarosz and country legend Ricky Skaggs.

After meeting **Loston Harris** at the 1st Thelonius Monk Jazz Competition, Harry Connick Jr., led Loston to study with his mentor, Ellis Marsalis, who encouraged him to switch instruments from drums to piano. And the rest, as they say, is history. Loston is doing his part to continue a legacy by blending traditional jazz, gospel and blues with his own unique stylings. He has performed and toured with Wynton Marsalis, and appeared on the PBS special *Portraits in Blue* with GRAMMY® nominee Marcus Roberts.

Loston has appeared in the feature film *Little Manhattan*, was the on-air personality for the episode of *BET on Jazz* highlighting the St. Lucia Jazz Festival, and co-headlined at the Friars Club Gala event honoring comedian/actor Don Rickles. His latest album, *Swingfully Yours* (Magenta Label Group), showcases swinging arrangements of timeless standards from the Great American Songbook.

Soon after **Ronnie Foster** began playing NYC clubs at the age of 20, guitar legend Grant Green hired him to go on the road. A turning point for the organist's career, he would record his first session on Grant Green's *Alive* leading to his own recording contract on the legendary Blue Note Records. Ronnie's solo discography consists of five albums for Blue Note, two albums for Columbia Records, and one album for Projazz. As a session player, he's collaborated with George Benson, Stevie Wonder, Roberta Flack, and many others.

La Misa Negra is a 7-piece band from Oakland, California, known for their heavyweight cumbia and high-energy, Afro-Latin music. On stage, they deliver an electrifying performance exploding with infectious dance grooves and punk rock energy, powered by horn and accordion-driven riffs, a fierce rhythm section, and a vintage sound. La Misa Negra's latest self-titled album channels Colombia's Golden Age as they dive into retro-future cumbia and tap deep into their Afro-Colombian influences by incorporating traditional styles, such as currulao and tambora. La Misa Negra's arrangements serve as the perfect delivery mechanism for both their humorous storytelling and exploration of heavier subject matter, like gun violence, water scarcity, and gender inequality.

Maintaining a focus on the future of jazz, San Jose Jazz Winter Fest 2018, Presented by Metro offers its own *Next Gen Stage* at Café Stritch, featuring seven of the finest regional youth jazz ensembles. Highlighted are the San Jose Jazz High School All Stars led by GRAMMY® Award-winning saxophonist, composer and educator Dr. Aaron Lington. Other youth ensembles include: Kuumbwa Jazz Honor Band, Folsom High School Jazz Band, Lincoln High School Jazz Band, Homestead High School, and Santa Clara University Jazz Combo.

Sponsors of San Jose Jazz Winter Fest 2018, Presented by Metro include: **KCSM, DownBeat, City of San Jose Office of Cultural Affairs, Jazz Organ Fellowship, Hammer Theatre Center, Oshman Family Jewish Community Center — Palo Alto, Universal Grammar, TourWest, Westaf, The National Endowment for the Arts and Jan De Carli.**

San Jose Jazz Winter Fest 2018, Presented by Metro

When: Thursday, February 15 - Wednesday, February 28, 2018

Where: Downtown San Jose, CA & Palo Alto, CA

Admission: Concert tickets are \$5 - 40; VIP Pass: \$260; Next Gen student ensemble shows are free; SJZ members receive 15% off any advance purchase of single tickets.

More Info: sanjosejazz.org/winterfest; (408) 288-7557

Ticket Info: Cash and credit accepted at door

About San Jose Jazz

Founded in 1986, San Jose Jazz is a public benefit corporation celebrating jazz as a dynamic, evolving art form and is producer of the annual San Jose Jazz Summer Fest and Winter Fest. With its singular music programming and innovative educational offerings, San Jose Jazz preserves the jazz tradition while actively supporting the next generation of performers within the genre and beyond. For more information, please visit sanjosejazz.org.

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Artist interviews and hi-res photos are available upon request.

Winter Fest 2018 artist bios and schedule updates at sanjosejazz.org/winterfest

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