



# Jazz Aid Fund 2023

**San Jose Jazz Grants More Than \$100,000 to Local Musicians  
from Three Consecutive Years of Giving Through the SJZ Jazz Aid Fund**

**San Jose Jazz Board of Directors Announce Its Latest Funding Round of \$20,000 for 2023  
With \$1,000 Grants for Commissioning of Works by  
20 SF Bay Area Musicians with SJZ Jazz Aid Fund 2023**

**2023 Grantees:**

**Adam Shulman, B DeVeaux, Brian Andres, Dawan Muhammad, Destiny Muhammad,  
Dillon Vado, DRUVVY, Essiet Okon Essiet, Frunkyman, Jackie Gage, Kava Jah, Kira  
Hooks, Marcus Phillips, Martin Luther McCoy, Michelle Pollace, Oddity, Skylar Tang,  
Stoney Creation, Tiffany Austin, and Tony Peebles**

"With all of the uncertainty that we've all been experiencing since 2020, this really gave me hope and inspired me. I think that this being the first grant I've ever received, it's a moment that I will take with me for as long as I live and continue to look back on, as a reason to keep going and to believe in myself. Truly grateful for this experience and the opportunity to work with San Jose Jazz." -**B. DeVeaux (SJZ Jazz Aid Fund, 2023 Grantee)**

"The honor of receiving this award is truly heartwarming. The fact that I'm being received in the jazz community makes me so happy and it's truly a wish fulfilled. I think this will impact me in such a motivational way -- to keep creating from my heart and soul because that's what's truly being seen and felt. That's really all I could ask for." -**Stoney Creation (SJZ Jazz Aid Fund, 2023 Grantee)**

**San Jose, Calif. – Wednesday, December 7, 2022 – San Jose Jazz Board of Directors** announces today a new round of funding to provide \$20,000 for individual grants (\$1,000/artist) to 20 SF Bay Area musicians with its continuing commissions-based initiative, the **SJZ Jazz Aid Fund 2023**. To date, San Jose Jazz has granted \$80,000 in artist commissions and \$30,000 in performance fees since its launch in 2020. SJZ Jazz Aid Fund gives \$1,000 grants to a diverse cross-section of artists varying in genres, demographics, and geographies who all have suffered tremendous financial hardships due to the COVID-19 pandemic. In spring 2023, six of the 20 new grantees will premiere their commissions live at the **3<sup>rd</sup> SJZ New Works Fest** at the **SJZ Break Room** in downtown San Jose, Calif. from April 14 – 30, 2023.

The Board of Directors launched the SJZ Jazz Aid Fund in 2020 in direct response to the COVID pandemic with artists being among those most adversely effected with the unprecedented cancelation of live concerts, tours, and limited income-generating activities. \$33,000 was donated through 33 individual grants during the initial 2020 funding round. For 2022, 27 standout musicians received grants, and in 2023, an additional 20 artists will receive \$1,000 grants. Across the three consecutive years, \$30,000 in performance fees have been granted for select grantees appearing at the **SJZ New Works Fest** (2021 – 2023). For each round of funding, grantees are selected through recommendations across the SF Bay Area music community, including media critics, arts presenters, artists, and curators.

The **Jazz Aid Fund 2023** grants \$1,000 to each of the following artists: **Adam Shulman, B DeVeaux, Brian Andres, Dawan Muhammad, Destiny Muhammad, Dillon Vado, DRUVVY, Essiet Okon Essiet, Frunkyman, Jackie Gage, Kava Jah, Kira Hooks, Marcus Phillips, Martin Luther McCoy, Michelle Pollace, Oddity, Skylar Tang, Stoney Creation, Tiffany Austin, and Tony Peebles.**

### **Artist Highlights – SJZ Jazz Aid Fund 2023**

**SJZ Jazz Aid Fund 2023** artists include **Adam Shulman**, a jazz pianist who's collaborated with internationally renowned artists such as Stefon Harris, Willie Jones, Miguel Zenon, Bobby Hutcherson, Bria Skonberg, Marcus Shelby, among others. As a composer and arranger, Shulman has released four albums and arranges music for cabaret star Paula West. 21-year-old non-binary, queer Oakland native **B. DeVeaux** is a rising singer who studied at the Oakland School of Arts and was mentored by the likes of Kehlani, Daveed Diggs, and Ledisi. They held the top spot in OSA's premier ensemble, Vocal Rush (International Competition for High School Acapella, 4x champions).

Drummer **Brian Andres** has performed with many greats including Rock and Roll Hall of Fame members Little Anthony and the Imperials, Tony Award winner and Broadway star Faith Prince, and television and movie star Woody Harrelson. As a bandleader, he's led projects such as The Afro-Cuban Jazz Cartel and Trio Latino; the latter released their debut album, *Mayan Suite*, in May 2020 and it remained in the "Top 10" on the CMJ Jazz Charts for 11 weeks. Andres is a contributor to *DRUM! Magazine*, and has been voted into the "Top 20" in the Drummers category in *DownBeat's* Readers Poll.

Harpist **Destiny Muhammad** has curated concerts for Grace Cathedral's *Christmas Concert Series*, SFJAZZ's Tribute to jazz harp legend Alice Coltrane, SF Symphony's *SOUNDBOX Series*, and has shared the stage with Jazz Masters Denise Perrier, Omar Sosa, and Blue Note Artist Ambrose Akinmusire. In 2022, Destiny was named the "Artist in Residence" at the Healdsburg Jazz Festival. Drummer and vibraphonist **Dillon Vado** can be found playing with many of his own projects including The Table Trio, as well as playing vibes for singer Amy D. and drumming/composing for Never Weather. As a sideman, he's worked with the Oakland Samba Revue, The Electric Squeezebox Orchestra, the Marcus Shelby Jazz Orchestra, among others.

Bassist/composer **Frunkyman** is a graduate from SJSU's Jazz Studies Masters program and has worked as a studio musician for several series including *Genius: Picasso, FIFA 2018, Drifting Dragons*, and the Video Game Awards 2018. He has performed at the Blues and Brews Festival, San Jose Museum Of Art, and San Jose Jazz Summer Fest.

**Jackie Gage** creates a soft blend of jazz and folk music. She's opened for artists including Tony, Toni, Toné; José James, Darlene Love & Dignable Planets; performed with artists Marc Cary, Kim Nalley, Lyrics Born, Richie Goods, and Jerome Jennings; shared stages with Theo Croker and Terri Lyne Carrington, and toured the world with her original music. Jackie is currently recording an album with GRAMMY-winning songwriter and producer Jesse Harris (Norah Jones, Lizz Wright, Maya Hawke), and released her single "Green" in October 2022, focused on climate justice and the devastating impact of corporate greed on our planet. "Green" has garnered praise from *KQED* and placements on Putumayo's Acoustic World Playlist and Turkey's Radyo Voyage.

Bassist **Marcus Phillips** has performed with the likes of Leela James, Ledisi, Tony Toni Tone, Goapele, Jennifer Hudson, Kelly Clarkson, and more. He is currently the bassist for GRAMMY-nominated R&B soul singer, Kem, and has two projects as a solo bassist: *Perspective* and *Covered*. A San Jose native, Latin jazz pianist/composer **Michelle Pollace's** latest album, *New Beginning*, has garnered accolades as well as airplay on nearly 200 satellite, public, and college radio stations, plus made the "most added releases" list in *JazzWeek*. The album received the coveted "CD Discoveries of the Week" by **Marc Myers** of **JazzWax.com**.

Hailing from the East Bay, **Oddity** is a sonic storyteller seeking refuge in the intersections of jazz, hip-hop and neo-soul. A transgender woman of color, Oddity's story is one of resiliency and rebirth where she/her discovers beauty and cultivates peace by centering love, against all odds. Only 16 years old, **Skylar Tang** has emerged as one of the nation's top high school trumpet players, performing in the Monterey Jazz Festival's Next Generation programs, the Vail Jazz Workshop, and NYO Jazz. Skylar has been selected for the Jazz Education Network's Young Composer Showcase and she won the Jazz at Lincoln Center Essentially Ellington Big Band Composing and Arranging Contest. Jazz at Lincoln Center Orchestra recorded and performed her piece, and NPR featured Skylar winning the award.

A multifaceted artist from Oakland, 23-year-old **Stoney Creation** is involved in an array of art mediums including, singing, DJing, radio hosting, and graphic design. Stoney strives to use these art forms to connect with her community, and share perspectives and her healing truths to guide people into understanding their own individual freedoms.

Vocalist, composer, lyricist and Berkeley Law graduate **Tiffany Austin** combines classic jazz tradition with a deep love for blues, spirituals, contemporary soul, and a storyteller's knack for narrative. She's performed on renowned stages such as Birdland and Dizzy's Den in NYC, Walt Disney Concert Hall, and SFJAZZ. *Nothing But Soul*, Austin's debut album from 2015, earned rave reviews for its bold recasting of Hoagy Carmichael standards. Her sophomore album, *Unbroken* (2018), was hailed by *All About Jazz* as a "fully formed masterpiece." In 2020, she performed with titanic tenor saxophonist Pharoah Sanders as part of an all-star concert at Zebulon Café. In 2021, she was organist/Black Jazz Records leader Doug Carn's special guest at San Jose Jazz Summer Fest. In 2022, she was named a Yerba Buena Gardens Festival Seed Commissions Artist.

**SJZ Executive Director Brendan Rawson** says, "Since the beginning of the pandemic, San Jose Jazz has been focused on how to keep musicians working through this challenging time, starting with *Live From Home* live-streamed concerts, which put 100% of patron donations directly into the hands of local artists. For the past three years, our Board of Directors has invested over \$110,000 into Bay Area artists through commissioning and performance of new works."

"The wide range of our 'nominators' in the community allowed us to connect with new artists and broaden our scope to artists we have not yet presented," adds **SJZ Artistic and Festival Director Bruce Labadie**. "I'm especially looking forward to performances by six of these artists in-person in our own venue for live audiences and streaming through our social platforms."

Housed on South 1<sup>st</sup> Street inside San Jose Jazz's downtown office with a multi-media digital video wall featuring the latest in HD technology, **The SJZ Break Room** hosts six leading-edge jazz artists on stage (SJZ New Works Fest 2023) while live performances are projection-mapped with Ultra-Short Throw Projectors onto high-end projection fabric mounted on motorized rollers. Sound from outdoor speakers and projections fill a 35 x 14 feet bank of floor to ceiling windows, providing a unique outdoor concert experience on San Carlos Street in addition to creating a uniquely immersive environment for the live indoor shows (100-person capacity). The **SJZ New Works Fest 2023** is a ticketed live concert series from **April 14 – 30, 2023** with tickets soon to be available online at [sanjosejazz.org](https://sanjosejazz.org). Music fans can also view each concert live-streamed free on San Jose Jazz's social media platforms: [facebook.com/sanjosejazz](https://facebook.com/sanjosejazz) and [youtube.com/c/sanjosejazz](https://youtube.com/c/sanjosejazz). Highlight shows featuring short sets by Fest artists will be streamed free in May 2023.

The artist line-up for **SJZ New Works Fest 2023** will be announced in early 2023.

### **About San Jose Jazz**

Founded in 1986, San Jose Jazz is a public benefit organization celebrating jazz as a dynamic, evolving art form and is producer of the annual San Jose Jazz Summer Fest and Winter Fest. San Jose Jazz innovates trend-setting initiatives to foster artistic ingenuity and preserve the jazz tradition as a forward-thinking movement. Through diverse music and educational programming, San Jose Jazz offers singular content and events by investing in the SF Bay Area ecosystem of exceptional talent for local and national audiences to enjoy.

For more information, please visit [sanjosejazz.org](https://sanjosejazz.org).

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

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