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## **HPL and The Artists Collective Launch New Partnership**

### ***Jazz Reigns Supreme April through July with New Collaboration***

**(Hartford, CT)** Where there is an obstacle, there is an opportunity. Hartford Public Library's recent closure of the Downtown Library due to water damage has helped forge a new partnership between old neighbors in Hartford's Upper Albany. On April 30, Hartford Public Library (HPL) brings its popular Baby Grand Jazz series to The Artists Collective, 1200 Albany Ave. with two standout shows, the AA Team at 1 p.m. and Matt Dwonszyk and the Dwonttet at 3 p.m. The double-header concert will close out HPL's Baby Grand Jazz 2022-23 season and welcome in Jazz 101, a new spring to summer program for area jazz lovers.

"We are delighted to serve as a venue for Hartford Public Library's Baby Grand Jazz series. Founded by jazz giant Jackie McLean, The Artists Collective has touched the lives of thousands with its music and art. Our alumni are all over the world, many pursuing a career in the arts. It gives us particular pleasure to host Matt Dwonszyk and the Dwonttet, all former students of ours," said Kimberly Kersey, Executive Director, The Artists Collective.

The Artists Collective was founded in 1970 by world renowned alto-saxophonist, composer, educator Jackie McLean as an interdisciplinary arts and cultural institution. It is the only multi-arts organization of its kind emphasizing the cultural and artistic contributions of the African Diaspora. The Artists Collective programs expose students and the community to great and often overlooked artists of the past and present; offering the highest quality training in dance, theater, music and visual arts.

Hartford Public Library's Baby Grand Jazz program has entertained area audiences for 25 years with quality Sunday afternoon jazz performances running January through April. Sponsored by the Kaman Foundation, HPL provides a wide array of jazz expression from jazz classics to innovative fusions of styles and instrumentation. The Baby Grand Jazz series, much like the Library itself, offers something for everyone.

"This is an exciting opportunity to renew our long partnership with The Artists Collective. As the Library moves to extend its footprint on Albany Avenue with an expansion of the existing Albany Library and renovation of the North-West School to include a neighborhood cultural center, this Upper Albany campus will resonate with art, community and cultural offerings," said Bridget E. Quinn, HPL President and CEO.

Following the Baby Grand Jazz series and funded by the Greater Hartford Arts Council, HPL and The Artist Collective will launch Jazz 101 in May, a six-week series of free evening discussions and demonstrations from 6-8 p.m. with jazz aficionados Haneef Nelson on May 8 and 15; Matt DeChamplain Stride Piano-Be Bop on May 22 and June 5; and, Emmet Goods Hard Bop and Modern Day Jazz on June 12 and 19. Jazz 101 is an interactive series with audience discussion and instrumental demonstration and serves as a spring/summer prelude to July's hugely popular Greater Hartford Jazz Festival.

Free and open to the public, seating at the April 30 Baby Grand Jazz double-header is first come, first seated, starting at 12:00 p.m. Parking is available adjacent to The Artists Collective. No registration is required. Both concerts will stream on Hartford Public Library's [Facebook page](#) and [YouTube channel](#).

To register for Jazz 101, visit the Library online at <https://programs.hplct.org/events>. Jazz 101 is free and open to the public.