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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## **Library's Baby Grand Jazz Series Kickoff Breaks Attendance Records**



*Meg Okura and the Pan Asian Jazz Chamber Ensemble Perform for 600 Attendees from Around the State*

HARTFORD, Connecticut (January 7, 2014) – **The 11<sup>th</sup> season of Hartford Public Library's widely popular Baby Grand Jazz Series kicked off Sunday, January 5** with a record-breaking appearance by Meg Okura and the Pan Asian Chamber Jazz Ensemble, who performed a unique and lively set for **a crowd of 600 jazz fans, music aficionados, and library patrons.**

"We're so happy to be here, because we love libraries," said violin virtuoso Okura. "Hartford is so fortunate to have such a wonderful resource. The audience members were so enthusiastic, and it's so wonderful that you make jazz so exciting for the community!"

“We could not be more pleased with the wonderful turnout,” said Matt Poland, CEO of Hartford Public Library. “The significant increase in attendance at Baby Grand Jazz over the years is a testament to its tremendous value in our community, and its popularity among fans of great live music from throughout the state.”

The free concert series, held every Sunday through April at 3:00 PM in the Downtown Library’s picturesque atrium, was also live-streamed into Billings Forge’s Kitchen at Hartford Public Library café space fronting Main Street, where overflow attendees enjoyed the performance along with the café’s specialty drinks and baked goods. The Kitchen, usually closed on weekends, will be open 2:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m. Sunday afternoons through January with the potential to extend Sunday hours through the end of the series.

For more information on the Baby Grand Jazz Series, including the full 2014 lineup, please visit:

<http://hplct.org/classes-seminars-exhibits/baby-grand-jazz>

#### **ABOUT [HARTFORD PUBLIC LIBRARY](#)**

The Hartford Public Library traces its roots to 1774. It operates 10 locations and a Library-on-Wheels in the City of Hartford. The Library receives more than 860,000 visits per year. Services include access to a large collection of materials for reading and research, as well as music and video. Programs provide education, information and enrichment to the people of Hartford in such areas as citizenship training, literacy, business skills and cultural awareness. The mission of Hartford Public Library is to provide free resources that inspire reading, guide learning, and encourage individual exploration. Visit [hplct.org](http://hplct.org) and the library’s new blog at [blogs.hplct.org](http://blogs.hplct.org).

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