

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**Baby Grand Jazz Series at Hartford Public Library Welcomes Acclaimed  
Performers Throughout March**



*New York City pianist Johnny King visits Downtown Hartford March 22 for a free performance.*

**Hartford, Connecticut (February 17, 2015)** – March brings a lineup of exciting regional performers to Hartford Public Library’s 12th Annual Baby Grand Jazz Series, 16 weeks of free, world-class jazz concerts in Downtown Hartford, Sunday afternoons, January through April. The highly-anticipated series features noted regional talent from New York City to Boston and throughout Connecticut, and blends traditional styles with new sounds in a celebration of the diversity of jazz culture.

- The third month of the 2015 series kicks off on Sunday, March 1 at 3:00 p.m. with [Laszlo Gardony](#), a critically-acclaimed pianist who has brought his soulful improvisations and compositions to audiences in 24 countries. Born in Hungary, a full scholarship to Berklee

brought Gardony to America in 1983. Winner of the Great American Jazz Piano Competition, Gardony has been called “a pianist worthy of praise within the highest pantheon of performers” by JazzReview.com and “a great pianist” by Dave Brubeck.

- The music continues on Sunday, March 8 at 3:00 p.m. with [Matt DeChamplain](#), a Connecticut-based pianist who trained at the Greater Hartford Academy of the Arts under Jimmy Greene, Paul Brown and Gene Bozzi and currently teaches at the Academy, The Hartt School, and Glastonbury High School. DeChamplain’s unique sound comes from the application of early jazz piano devices created by Ragtime, Blues, and Stride musicians, as well as traditional elements blended with modern jazz concepts.
- On Sunday, March 15, guitarist [Joshua Breakstone](#) takes the stage at 3:00 p.m. A successful musician for over 30 years, DownBeat wrote of Breakstone: "There is no shortage of young, knock-out jazz guitarists about us these days. And Joshua Breakstone is among the best of them."
- On Sunday, March 22, The Johnny King Trio visits Hartford. A native New Yorker, [Johnny King](#) has toured throughout the United States, Europe, South America and Asia. Before he was a teenager, King had already performed onstage with Dizzy Gillespie and appeared on television at the piano alongside his early idol, Earl “Fatha” Hines. Before he was 20, he was already sitting in with Art Blakey and playing his first gigs in New York’s many restaurants and clubs. The Boston Globe called the pianist “...perhaps the best of young composers...”
- Completing the March lineup is The Alvin Carter Project, a trio led by Hartford percussionist and jazz scene regular Alvin Carter, performing Sunday, March 29 at 3:00 p.m. A multi-percussionist, Carter had his musical beginnings on congas and later added drum set and many other types of percussion to his list. He currently focuses on Afrikan-American improvisational music but has been active in many different musical styles for many years.

Baby Grand Jazz 2015 is sponsored by The Charles H. Kaman Charitable Foundation. All performances are free and held at the Downtown Library, located at 500 Main Street, Hartford at 3:00 p.m. Concerts can also be viewed online via livestream by visiting [hplct.org](http://hplct.org).

For more information on the series and these performers, please visit [hplct.org](http://hplct.org).

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

As a finalist for the 2014 National Medal from the Institute for Museum and Library Services, Hartford Public Library has been recognized as national leader in redefining the urban public library in the 21st century as an innovative and stimulating place where people can learn and discover, explore their passions, and find a rich array of resources that contribute to a full life. Hartford Public Library provides free resources that inspire reading, guide learning, and encourage individual exploration. Serving the residents of Hartford and beyond at its nine branches and Downtown location, Hartford Public Library receives more than 860,000 visits per year from adults, children and families seeking early literacy opportunities, work skills training, civic engagement, arts enrichment, and so much more. Visit [hplct.org](http://hplct.org).

###