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**BABY GRAND JAZZ AT HARTFORD PUBLIC LIBRARY  
WARMS UP COLD SUNDAY AFTERNOONS**

**Hartford, Connecticut (December 15, 2011)** — Hartford Public Library announced today that the Baby Grand Jazz Series for 2012, a free Sunday afternoon jazz piano program, runs January 8 through April 29 at 3:00 p.m.

Hartford Public Library plays a vital role in offering free jazz performances in downtown Hartford and has done so since 2004. In partnership with the Hartford Jazz Society, musicians are selected with renowned jazz experts such as Maurice Robertson, host of the University of Hartford's WWUH 91.3 FM and program committee chair of Hartford Jazz Society. Robertson said, "Hartford Public Library is to be applauded for their expanded efforts in booking Connecticut-based jazz artists in their ongoing Baby Grand Jazz Series. It is a great way to relax while being educated by the sounds of America's greatest art form."

The Steinway baby grand piano combined with the Library's unique acoustical architecture attract musicians who have played with notable jazz artists such as Dizzy Gillespie, Aretha Franklin and Harry Belafonte. "The Library supports artistic excellence by engaging local communities in new and exciting ways through an array of inspiring artistic and cultural programs. Baby Grand Jazz provides musicians with a unique venue to perform and showcase their work to a broad spectrum of people, young and old," said Matthew K. Poland, chief executive officer at Hartford Public Library.

The Baby Grand Jazz Series begins January 8, 2012 with a performance by Eri Yamamoto. Since moving to the United States in 1995 from her native Japan, Yamamoto has established herself as one of jazz's most original and compelling pianists and composers. In her work, Yamamoto has managed to combine pianistic precision with a freewheeling spirit and the ability to mesh eclectic and intelligent jazz with unabashedly sunny melodies and rhythms.

Other upcoming jazz artists scheduled to perform are Yunie Mojica on January 15, Larry Gareau on January 22, and Ed Fast on January 25.

This season refreshments will be available for purchase. For more information visit [www.hplct.org](http://www.hplct.org) and click on Baby Grand Jazz.

**About Hartford Public Library**

The Hartford Public Library traces its roots to 1774. It operates 10 locations 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.

For more information or to arrange an interview, please contact:

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