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HARTFORD PUBLIC LIBRARY'S BABY GRAND JAZZ KICKS OFF THIS SUNDAY, JANUARY 5

Baby Grand Jazz returns with support from The Kaman Foundation

(HARTFORD, CT) – Hartford Public Library's (HPL) popular Baby Grand Jazz Series (BGJ) will return for its 21st season on January 5, 2025.

The free series, supported by a generous three-year sponsorship from The Kaman Foundation, features accomplished jazz musicians and bands from around the region. HPL will continue to host the Baby Grand Jazz series on Sunday afternoons at 3:00 p.m. from January to April, excluding Easter Sunday on April 20. The concerts will take place in the Center for Contemporary Culture (CCC) at HPL's Downtown Library, 500 Main Street, Hartford.

The Kaman Foundation has been funding Baby Grand Jazz since 2015. Their sponsorship will support the successful concert series and ensure its continued growth, fostering a love and appreciation for modern America's original art form, Jazz.

Concerts start this Sunday, January 5, at 3:00 p.m., and doors open at 2:00 p.m.

January 5 – Chloe Madrak Quartet: Chloe Madrak is a 17-year-old tenor saxophonist from West Hartford, Connecticut. In addition to being a member of Hall High School's Concert Jazz Band, she is also a member of Jazz at Lincoln Center Youth Orchestra in New York City. She has performed at the Monterey Jazz Festival with the Next Generation Jazz Orchestra. She has received awards throughout her high school career, including Outstanding Clarinet Soloist & Woodwind Doubler awards from the Essentially Ellington Festival, Outstanding Soloist Award from the Charles Mingus Competition, and was named a YoungArts Winner in 2024.

Chloe Madrak, tenor saxophone | Carter Bryan, piano | Jeremy Baun, drums | Tim Norton, bass

January 12 – MNM Trio with Josh Bruneau: Mary DiPaola began her musical career at the Hartt School, where she received degrees in piano performance and jazz studies under the direction of the legendary





Jackie McLean and a degree in music education. She has been performing music throughout CT since, appearing in Litchfield and Hartford Jazz festivals. She has recorded three times as a bandleader: *Cat's Cradle*, *Seventh Sign*, and the most recent, *Grata*. DiPaola has worked consistently with bassist Nat Reeves since the 1990s, and their collaboration now includes Molly Sayles on drums. The trio released *Grata* in June of 2024 and has appeared at the Side Door Jazz Club, The Red Door Jazz series, and the Paul Brown Monday Night Jazz series. The MNM trio will be joined by trumpeter Josh Bruneau, who has appeared with the group several times, including the Parkville Monday Night jazz series, the Paul Brown series in Bushnell Park, and the Jazz at the Red Door series.

Mary DiPaola, piano / Nat Reeves, bass / Molly Sayles, drums / Josh Bruneau, trumpet

January 19 – Charlie Apicella & Alexis Marcelo “The Inner Teachings of Yusef Lateef”: Charlie Apicella and Alexis Marcelo pay tribute to their mentor, Yusef Lateef. Selections include Apicella’s originals, spontaneous group improvisation, and never-before-performed compositions by Lateef from such collections as *Flute Book of the Blues* and *The Repository of Scales and Melodic Patterns*.

Charlie Apicella, guitar & madal drum / Alexis Marcelo, piano / Bryce Sebastien, bass / The Mishpaka Drummers Sareed & Ben, congas

January 26 – Michelle Tucker Quintet + Strings: Michelle Tucker is a percussionist, composer, and music educator living in the woods of Massachusetts with her two children. Michelle grew up playing in Boston’s DIY punk scene and is an alumna of The Berklee College of Music (BM ‘13) and The Longy School of Music’s Modern American Music program (MM ‘17). She was part of the first cohort of the Broadway Musicians Equity Partnership during the Fall of 2023, where she shadowed the Broadway production of *Six*. Michelle has released two singles with The Michelle Tucker Quintet, *Both Can Be True* and *Leapin’*, and she premiered a piece for a jazz quartet and orchestra titled *Pieces of Home* at The Berklee Performance Center in September 2024. Michelle is a transgender woman and feels it is essential to be visible with the hope that her leading a life in music openly will contribute to the normalization of trans identities.

Michelle Tucker, drums, compositions & arrangements / Haneef Nelson, trumpet / Mark Zaleski, alto saxophone / Andrew Wilcox, piano / Devon Gates, bass

The Downtown Library will be open Sundays, 1:00 p.m.-5:00 p.m. The Baby Grand Jazz concert starts at 3:00 p.m. but doors to the CCC open at 2:00 p.m. The concerts are from 3:00-4:00 p.m., on Sundays from January to April. All shows will be streamed on Hartford Public Library's [Facebook page](#) and [YouTube channel](#).

Baby Grand Jazz at HPL is sponsored by the Kaman Foundation. Longtime partners include the Hartford Jazz Society and WWUH 91.3 FM. For more information, visit: www.hplct.org/classes-seminars-exhibits/baby-grand-jazz



About Hartford Public Library

Founded as the Library Company in 1774, and over its 250 years, Hartford Public Library (HPL) has remained at the forefront of redefining the urban library experience in the 21st century. The Library has seven full-service locations, two Boundless Library locations, and multiple outreach services, including the Library on Wheels and Story Stash, a 24-7 pickup locker. HPL provides education, intellectual enrichment, and cultural development for thousands of children, youth, and adults. HPL has gained local and national recognition for its wide range of new initiatives and partnerships designed to meet the needs of a diverse and dynamic city and region, including immigration services, employment assistance, and youth leadership training. For more information, visit hplct.org, and follow us on social media ([Facebook](#), [Instagram](#), [YouTube](#), [X \(Twitter\)](#), [Bluesky](#)).

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