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HARTFORD PUBLIC LIBRARY RECEIVES \$9,000 FOR SUMMER CONCERT SERIES
Evelyn W. Preston Memorial Fund sponsors "Let's Dance-Celebrating 250 Years"

(Hartford, CT) – Hartford Public Library (HPL) received \$9,000 in support for the summer music series "Let's Dance – Celebrating 250 Years of Hartford Public Library". Coinciding with the Library's 250th anniversary, the series will feature Latin, West African, Funk, Afro-Cuban, Jazz, and fusions of these genres that will inspire Hartford dwellers of all ages to join the fun and dance.

Founded in 1978, the Evelyn W. Preston Memorial Fund is a private foundation in Connecticut administered through Bank of America Connecticut Private Bank. Evelyn Wallace Preston established this fund to provide an endowment for summer Hartford music concerts, from June through September. All programs must be held in Hartford and be free of charge to the public.

"Let's Dance – Celebrating 250 Years" will present seven upbeat, live music performances representing and celebrating the diversity of Hartford's neighborhoods. Concerts will be held at Library locations across the city and will feature programming to enhance the experience. HPL encourages attendees to share their stories and connections with the Library, fostering a shared sense of history and pride in our community's cultural heritage.

The 2024 Evelyn Preston Summer Concert Series aims to unite residents of all ages and backgrounds to enjoy high-quality musical performances in accessible, family-friendly settings.

Wednesday, June 13, 1:30 p.m. – Nelson Bello & Friends

Park Street Library @ the Lyric, 603 Park Street

Fronted by Nelson Bello, this group will be performing their Afro-Cuban and Caribbean-flavored jazz. Nelson Bello, a Latin percussionist and Hartford native, is known for his Afro-Cuban and Caribbean-flavored jazz performances. He began his musical studies at a young age and has performed in various locations including Cuba and Puerto Rico. Additionally, he's an advocate for arts education and has served on the steering committee for Make Music Hartford.

Thursday, June 18, 11:00 a.m. – Haneef Nelson Duet

Downtown Library, 500 Main Street

Haneef N. Nelson is a Composer/Arranger, Bandleader, and Educator based out of Hartford, CT. He learned trumpet at age 12 and studied Jazz with various influential musicians. He teaches at the University of Rhode Island and has performed with notable artists such as Donald Byrd, Nat Reeves, and Musiq Soulchild.



Thursday, June 27, 3:00 p.m. – The Lost Tribe

Barbour Library, 261 Barbour Street

The Lost Tribe is a drum-centered Afro-funk fusion ensemble led by Jocelyn Pleasant, aiming to showcase the drum as a lead instrument and provide a platform for overlapping communities. Founded in 2016, the group blends djembe music into various genres. Based in Middletown, CT, the musicians are from premier arts institutions, contributing to a unique 'Hartford sound'. Performances often include special guests, reflecting the large talent pool of their community. The staples of a Tribe performance are energy, stage presence, and GROOVE.

Tuesday, July 9, 1:30 p.m. – Ed Fast and the Conga Bop Quintet

Camp Field Library, 30 Campfield Avenue

Afro-Cuban influenced rhythms and hard-bop harmony fused to create unique, soulful originals and creatively arranged jazz standards. Ed Fast has become a celebrated figure in town through his band's many well-received appearances in Hartford, including its soulful, sizzling sessions at The Firebox Restaurant. Fast is a versatile, Hartt School-trained percussionist who is comfortable sitting in with the Hartford Symphony Orchestra, touring with premier Broadway shows throughout Russia, China, Japan, and South Korea, and performing in backup bands at casinos accompanying big-name favorites like Aretha Franklin and Paul Anka.

Tuesday, July 23, 1:00 p.m. – The Goza Latin Band

Dwight Library, 7 New Park Avenue

GOZA (Spanish for Joy) performs exciting music and dance rhythms from Latin America, Brazil, and Spain. The band features guitar, horns, violin, bass, percussion, and beautiful vocals. Goza rhythms include salsa, cha-cha, samba, rumba, cumbia, flamenco, and more. They have performed at numerous venues such as Mohegan Sun Wolfden, Wadsworth Atheneum, weddings, festivals, colleges, and clubs throughout New England.

Monday, August 19, 1:00 p.m. – Haneef Nelson Duet

Albany Library, 1250 Albany Avenue

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Tuesday, August 27, 3:15 p.m. – The Lost Tribe

Ropkins Library, 1750 Main Street

The Lost Tribe is a drum-centered Afro-funk fusion ensemble led by Jocelyn Pleasant, aiming to showcase the drum as a lead instrument and provide a platform for overlapping communities. Founded in 2016, the group blends djembe music into various genres. Based in Middletown, CT, the musicians are from premier arts institutions, contributing to a unique 'Hartford sound'. Performances often include special guests, reflecting the large talent pool of their community. The staples of a Tribe performance are energy, stage presence, and GROOVE.



About Hartford Public Library: Founded as the Library Company in 1774, and over its 250 years, Hartford Public Library has remained at the forefront of redefining the urban library experience in the 21st century. With seven locations throughout the city, the library provides education, intellectual enrichment, and cultural development for thousands of children, youth, and adults every year. Hartford Public Library has also 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

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