



Baby Grand Jazz will open its 10th season at Hartford Public Library with its first performance on Sunday, January 6, 2013.

“Hartford Public Library's Baby Grand Jazz series for 2013 promises to be transforming with new musicians and past favorites adding their own unique spin on the art of the improvisers,” said Maurice Robertson, host of the University of Hartford's WWUH 91.3 FM and program committee chair of Hartford Jazz Society.

Andres Chaparro, artist and jazz aficionado, considers Hartford Public Library's downtown location as one of the “hippest joints in town” with Baby Grand Jazz at the center of its free cultural offerings. According to Chaparro, “there is something unique about the setting at the Baby Grand Jazz Series. The full house, the love for the music and the great performances create a vibe that doesn't always necessarily happen in other venues. If you've been to the Library I am sure you can relate to what I am saying.”

Concurrently with the start of the 2013 Baby Grand Jazz Series, Hartford Public Library will host two exhibits by **Andres Chaparro** and **Maurice Robertson**. Chaparro and Robertson's work is inspired by music, particularly jazz.

Maurice Robertson's photos are expressions of sounds in motion. Through this photo project, he attempts to convey to the viewer both the meditative qualities and the outward flowing dynamism of musicians caught in the act of improvisation. Robertson is a photographer of music, dance and the world of nature. Working with light as an intimate partner in this artistic voyage has increased his sensitivity and awareness of the constant enfoldment of life, and its myriad plots and directions.

In the last two years, Robertson has augmented his vision with the use of digital cameras and it's become a serious boon to his photo excursions. “Thanks for viewing my photo art, I trust it will stir and stimulate your senses to seek out more of the magic of the performing arts and the world we are interconnected to,” said Roberson. <http://www.artists.openstudiohartford.com/directory/item/maurice-d-robertson-photo-arts.html>.

Andres Chaparro's paintings are directly impacted by what he is listening to at the time. They become a visual representation of the music. “I am not pursuing perfection through my paintings; rather I strive to create art that is honest and true. My work is heavily influenced by jazz music. It inspires me, and like jazz, my art is improvised. I never start out actually knowing where the painting is going and when it will end,” said Chaparro.

Andres Chaparro was born in Hartford and is a self-taught artist. Although he studied art history in college, he has never taken an instructional art class. As early as he can remember, music and art have been an important part of his life. At the age of 13, Chaparro made an instant spiritual connection. This was a defining moment in his life as an artist. His work is fluid and free and the paintings reflect more concern for spontaneous emotion rather than traditional conventions, and incorporate found objects, strong color contrast, and distorted subject matter. <http://www.chaparroart.com/>

The two artist exhibits will be on display in the second floor of the Library during the months of January and February. Art works from both artists are available for sale.

For more information visit www.hplct.org and click on the Baby Grand Jazz slide or Robertson/Chaparro exhibits slide.