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HARTFORD PUBLIC LIBRARY'S 2016 BABY GRAND JAZZ SERIES OPENS WITH EDMAR CASTANEDA



Edmar Castaneda brings South American traditions to the opening concert on the 2016 Baby Grand Jazz Series

Hartford, Connecticut (December 15, 2015) - The 13th season of Hartford Public Library's widely popular Baby Grand Jazz Series opens Sunday, January 3 with Colombian harp virtuoso and composer Edmar Castaneda. Born in Colombia, Edmar has quite literally taken New York and the world stage by storm with the sheer force of his virtuosic command of the harp—revolutionizing the way audiences and critics alike consider an instrument commonly relegated to the “unusual category”.

On stages across the globe, Edmar's body seemingly engulfs his Colombian harp as he crafts almost unbelievable feats of cross-rhythms, layered with chordal nuances rivaling the most celebrated flamenco

His latest recording “Double Portion,” (which features Miguel Zenon, Cuban pianist Gonzalo Rubalcaba & Hamilton de Holanda on Mandolina) has caught the attention of reviewers and his legion of fans. Rob Young of “Urban Flux Magazine” says of the recording “Edmar Castaneda's caliber redefines depth, skill and emotion.”

The Baby Grand Jazz series 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. Other performers in January include: Sinan Bakir Quartet

featuring Alex Nakhimovsky (January 10); Alon Nechushtan Trio (January 17); Ayako Higuchi (January 24); and Abelita Mateus (January 31). For detailed information on each performer, please visit <http://hplct.org/classes-seminars-exhibits/baby-grand-jazz>

Concurrent with Baby Grand Jazz, the Library's **ArtWalk** will exhibit *Expressions in Sounds and Motion*. Hartford photographer Maurice Robertson explores the meditative qualities and the outward, flowing dynamism of musicians at play. His photo work is a love affair with jazz music and the quest for displaying the energy of performance of this art form. The exhibit opens January 22 until March 4, 2016 and can be visited during regular Library hours.

ABOUT HARTFORD PUBLIC LIBRARY

As a finalist for the 2013 and 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 833,000 visits per year from adults, children and families seeking early literacy opportunities, work skills training, civic engagement, arts enrichment, and so much more. Please visit www.hplct.org.

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