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**BABY GRAND JAZZ OPENS ITS 10<sup>TH</sup> SEASON AT HARTFORD PUBLIC LIBRARY**

**Hartford, Connecticut (December 14, 2012)** — Hartford Public Library announced today that the Baby Grand Jazz Series for 2013, a free Sunday afternoon jazz piano program, will open for its 10<sup>th</sup> season this Sunday, January 6, at 3:00 p.m.

“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.”

The Baby Grand Jazz Series will open its season with performances by Saskia Laroo and Warren Byrd. Saskia Laroo, hailed by the American public and press at large as “Lady Miles of Europe”, is one of the few women trumpet stylists, blowing for more than three decades. Laroo combines today’s music by uncontrived romps into new styles, often described as “nu jazz” or “swinging body-music”--a vivacious

blend of hip-hop, jazz, salsa, funk reggae, and world, that many other artists dare not venture. Her artistry and her groove ring vibrantly and free through the music she plays from heart and soul.

Vocalist Warren Byrd is a Hartford native with an international touring schedule after many fruitful years playing Jazz throughout Connecticut, Southern New England, and New York. Byrd is co-founder of the Afro-Semitic Experience with whom he has toured and recorded several CDs. He also tours extensively with Saskia Laroo in her various formations for the past 10 years and co-leads with her the Duo Laroo/Byrd and Laroo Funky 4. The duo's first CD, *Two of a Kind, a tribute to Miles Davis and Thelonious Monk* was released in 2011.

Other jazz musicians scheduled to perform in January are The Colbys (Bev Rohlehr & John Colby) on January 13; The Survivors Swing Band on January 20; and Ed Fast on January 27.

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.

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.

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.

The two artist exhibits will be on display on the second floor of the Library during the months of January and February. For more information visit [www.hplct.org](http://www.hplct.org) and click on the Baby Grand Jazz slide or Robertson/Chaparro exhibits slide.

### **About [Hartford Public Library](http://www.hplct.org)**

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. Visit [hplct.org](http://hplct.org) and the library's new blog at [blogs.hplct.org](http://blogs.hplct.org)