

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

February Baby Grand Jazz Series Performers Heat Up Hartford



Vocalist Jolie Rocke Brown kicks off a February full of local talent at Hartford Public Library's Baby Grand Jazz Series.

Hartford, Connecticut (January 20, 2015) – February will be a hot month of **performances at Hartford Public Library's 12th Annual Baby Grand Jazz Series, 16 weeks of free, world-class jazz concerts in Downtown Hartford, Sunday afternoons, January through April.** The highly-anticipated series features noted regional talent from New York City to Boston and throughout Connecticut, and blends traditional styles with new sounds in a celebration of the diversity of jazz culture.

- The second month of the 2015 series kicks off on Sunday, February 1 at 3:00 p.m. with [Jolie Rocke Brown](#), a Hartford vocalist known for her soul-stirring renditions of hymns, spirituals, gospel and jazz that linger with audiences far beyond the vibrations of the last note. Of Ms. Brown, Hartford Courant writer and critic Owen McNally marveled, "[she]... is a versatile vocalist who ranges authoritatively and with graceful ease over everything from opera and music

theater to gospel and jazz". Legendary poet, educator and activist, Dr. Maya Angelou noted, "Jolie Rocke Brown sings with such passion ... and compassion!"

- The performances continue on Sunday, February 8 at 3:00 p.m. with [Survivors Swing Band](#), a Connecticut-based 7-piece jazz band playing the classic melodies from an era gone by--hot tunes and soothing ballads of the Swing Era-- plus many of the wonderful melodies from the two decades that followed.
- On Sunday, February 15, Bridgeport bassist [Steve Clarke](#) takes the stage at 3:00 p.m.. Clarke has been playing and performing for over 35 years, and has toured throughout the U.S., Germany, Czech Republic, Romania, Bulgaria, Austria, & Slovakia. Clarke's has his own jazz trio and has release 7 CDs, and has been called an up-and-coming "jazz fusion power trio."
- Completing the February lineup is pianist Mihoko Abe and [The Mihoko Trio](#), performing Sunday, February 22 at 3:00 p.m. A Japanese native and performer, composer and educator, Abe has performed throughout the U.S. and Japan, and her 2010 debut CD of original pieces and jazz standards received wide airplay.

Baby Grand Jazz 2015 is sponsored by The Charles H. Kaman Charitable Foundation. All performances are 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.

For more information on the series and these performers, please visit hplct.org.

ABOUT [HARTFORD PUBLIC LIBRARY](#)

As a finalist for the 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 860,000 visits per year from adults, children and families seeking early literacy opportunities, work skills training, civic engagement, arts enrichment, and so much more. Visit hplct.org.

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