



For Immediate Release
June 8, 2022
Contact: [Russell Blair](#)
(860) 559-4873

HARTFORD PUBLIC LIBRARY LAUNCHES ONLINE MUSIC COLLECTION 'THE BEAT' TO HIGHLIGHT, PROMOTE LOCAL MUSICIANS

Inaugural submission round for interested artists closes July 5

(Hartford, CT) – Hartford Public Library is now providing an exclusive collection of diverse, local music with the launch of The Beat, a streaming service that is actively seeking submissions from Hartford-area artists.

The new collection of music will be curated by Hartford Public Library and a group of community curators from Hartford's music scene. Songs can be played online 24/7 through a user-friendly digital music platform by all users and downloaded to be played later by Hartford Public Library cardholders. The Beat is accessible at www.thebeathartford.co.

"Connecting our customers with new and exciting digital resources and supporting local artists are cornerstones of what we do at Hartford Public Library and The Beat is a natural extension of that," **said Hartford Public Library Program, Production and Engagement Coordinator Nygel D. White**. "We look forward to highlighting the great music that is being created in Hartford and giving local musicians a new venue for exposure to grow their followings."

Curators for The Beat include:

- **Andres Chaparro**, a Hartford-born mixed media artist, his art is a visual representation of jazz and brings the music into the physical world
- **Yolande Spears**, vice president of education and community relations at The Bushnell, she co-created the award-winning PARTNERS program that provides arts opportunities for students of all ages
- **Maurice D. Robertson**, a jazz DJ on WWUH-FM and longtime supporter and board member of the Hartford Jazz Society, he has spent decades chronicling jazz through his photography
- **June Archer**, a musician, author and currently president and CEO of Eleven28 Entertainment, his career took him from singing in a driveway in Windsor to signing a major record deal in New York City

- **Elijah ‘EliDidThat’ Williams**, a YouMedia mentor at Hartford Public Library who is helping to train and mentor the next generation of Hartford musicians
- **Stephen Cusano**, a graduate of the Hartt School’s Jackie McLean Institute of Jazz with a focus in drums in jazz studies, he created Parkville Sounds, a recording studio for local artists, and is a member of Make Music Hartford and the Greater Hartford Arts Council
- **Jocelyn Pleasant**, a drummer, percussionist, educator and bandleader based in Middletown, she is pursuing a Ph.D. in ethnomusicology at Wesleyan University. Her band, Lost Tribe, performs music that combines West African rhythms and songs with jazz, funk and other genres.

The Beat’s inaugural submission round is now open and will conclude July 5th. Artists who are interested in being considered should upload three full-length tracks representative of their overall work online at thebeathartford.co. Musicians across all genres are encouraged to apply.

A jury will review submissions and select albums to be included in the collection. Artists who have their submissions accepted will be asked to upload an entire album and sign a licensing agreement. They will receive an honorarium of \$100 to \$250 depending on the length of their album. Works must have been produced within the last five years. Up to 40 new albums per year will be accepted in several submission rounds. A full list of submission criteria is available at thebeathartford.co.

Performers selected as part of The Beat will also have the opportunity to perform at concerts that will be organized by The Bushnell and Hartford Public Library. The first such concert is scheduled for July 17th in The Bushnell Courtyard.

About Hartford Public Library

With roots dating to 1774, Hartford Public Library remains 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. www.hplct.org.