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HARTFORD PUBLIC LIBRARY'S BABY GRAND JAZZ KICKS OFF THIS SUNDAY, JANUARY 7

Baby Grand Jazz returns with support from The Kaman Foundation

(Hartford, CT) – Hartford Public Library's (HPL) popular Baby Grand Jazz Series celebrates its 20th season with the support of a generous three-year sponsorship from The Kaman Foundation. The free series features accomplished jazz musicians and bands from around the region. HPL will continue to host the Baby Grand Jazz series Sunday afternoons from January through April in the Center for Contemporary Culture (CCC) at the Downtown Library. The Kaman Foundation has been funding Baby Grand Jazz since 2015, and their sponsorship will support the successful concert series and provide for continued growth, fostering a love and appreciation for modern America's original art form, Jazz. Baby Grand Jazz is celebrating its 20th season in 2024 at the same time that the HPL is celebrating our 250th anniversary year.



Concerts start this Sunday, January 7 at 3:00 p.m. (doors open at 2:00 p.m.). The 2024 seasonal lineup pay homage to the past 20 years while celebrating the future of jazz.

January 7 – Nat Reeves and Friends: For more than 40 years, Nat Reeves has been one of the top bassists in jazz. His supportive and stimulating playing has uplifted a countless number of sessions and recording dates (most notably with the great altoists Jackie McLean and Kenny Garrett), and he has led his own recordings "State of Emergency" and "Blue Ridge." In 2001 Nat began a full-time teaching career at The Hartt School, Jackie McLean Institute. Although Nat retired from the University in 2021, he continues to perform and teach. Learn more at <https://natreeves.com/>
Nat Reeves, bass | Rick Germanson, piano | Sarah Hanahan, saxophone | Hank Allen-Barfield, drums

January 14 – Angelina Kolobukhova Quartet: Angelina Kolobukhova is a vocalist born and raised in Minsk, Belarus. She has previously collaborated with the New Brunswick Jazz Project, Hartford Jazz Society, NPR Live Sessions and performed at Birdland Jazz Club, Room 623, Ornithology Jazz Club, among other NYC venues. Angelina's current vocal influences include Ella Fitzgerald, Sarah Vaughan, Nancy Wilson, Abbey Lincoln, and Cecile McLorin Salvant, among others. Her instrumental influences are Cannonball Adderley, Clifford Brown, Oscar Peterson, Mulgrew Miller, Hank Jones, and Roy Hargrove. Angelina performs standards from the American Songbook with original arrangements as well as her own original compositions. Learn more at <https://angelinajazz.com>



Angelina Kolobukhova, vocals | Tyler Henderson, piano | Sameer Shankar, bass | Aaron Seeber, drums

January 21 – John Kordalewski Trio: John Kordalewski is best known as the leader, pianist, and arranger for the Makanda Project, a 13-piece, Boston-based ensemble. He is also arranger and conductor for the Chicago-based Chico Freeman orchestra and he currently works with the Ricky Ford Quartet, as well as leading his own groups. This current trio has performed all over, including the Cambridge River Fest and Mandorla Music Series, as well as past Baby Grand Jazz series. The music is a wide-ranging mixture of original compositions, pieces by Thelonious Monk and Makanda Ken McIntyre, as well as reflecting the musicians' experiences traveling over the world.

John Kordalewski, piano | Wes Brown, bass | Royal Hartigan, drums

January 28 – Will Goble Quintet: Will Goble is a bassist, composer, bandleader, and educator. He became interested in jazz and related art forms after growing up within the creative music scene in the Research Triangle area of North Carolina. During his twenty-plus year career, Will has contributed to a number of musical communities and released two albums under his own name: *Some Stories Tell No Lies* (2012) and *Consider the Blues* (2016, Origin Arts). Will's music explores the blues, swing, and other important grooves born of Black American and Afro-Caribbean musical worlds. Currently based in New Haven, CT, Will performs as a sideman and bandleader. Learn more about Will at

<https://www.willgoblemusic.com/>

Will Goble, bass | Haneef Nelson, trumpet | Nathan Edwards, tenor sax | Jen Allen, piano | Ryan Sands, drums

This season, while construction is progressing within the Downtown Library, customers are asked to use the Arch Street entrance to access the CCC during Baby Grand Jazz. The doors are to open at 2:00 p.m. and the concerts are from 3:00-4:00 p.m., Sundays, January – April. All shows will continue to be streamed on Hartford Public Library's [Facebook page](#) and [YouTube channel](#).

Baby Grand Jazz at Hartford Public Library is sponsored by the Kaman Foundation. Longtime partners include the Hartford Jazz Society and WWUH 91.3 FM. For more information, visit:

www.hplct.org/classes-seminars-exhibits/baby-grand-jazz

About Hartford Public Library: Founded as the Library Company in 1774, and over its 250 years, Hartford Public Library has remained 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. For more information, visit hplct.org

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