

SEPTEMBER 18-21 2025



REGISTER FOR MORE INFORMATION,
OR LET US KNOW THAT YOU ATTENDED
THIS YEAR'S FESTIVAL FOR A CHANCE
TO WIN 2026 PIJF FESTIVAL TICKETS,
VIP PASSES, AND MORE.

15TH EDITION OF THE **PITTSBURGH** INTERNATIONAL **JAZZ** **FESTIVAL** 2025

FREE
STREET FESTIVAL
SATURDAY & SUNDAY

**FOOD TRUCKS
BEER GARDEN
GAME ZONE**

15 **THE AUGUST WILSON
AFRICAN AMERICAN
CULTURAL CENTER**

CO-PRESENTED BY
HIGHMARK 
An Independent Licensee of the Blue Cross and Blue Shield Association

PITTSBURGHJAZZFEST.ORG

WELCOME

**TO THE 15TH EDITION PITTSBURGH INTERNATIONAL JAZZ FESTIVAL,
CO-PRESENTED BY HIGHMARK BLUE CROSS BLUE SHIELD.**



JANIS BURLEY

President & CEO
August Wilson Center

Founder & Director
Pittsburgh International
Jazz Festival

photo credit: 2011, Joey Kennedy

This year's festival isn't just about longevity, it's a testament to the power of music to unite people, transform spaces, and keep Pittsburgh's cultural heartbeat strong. We thank all of the talented artists for sharing their gifts every year.

Starting this festival 15 years ago, the world was a very different place. We will do our part to bring joy and encourage respect for one another through music. I curate this festival with this in mind.

I want to thank the staff for their commitment to excellence and our Board for their encouragement. I am sincerely grateful to Highmark Blue Cross Blue Shield, our co-presenting sponsor. They, along with UPMC and UPMC Health Plan, have supported the festival since day one. The Mellon Foundation, Duolingo, The Wilson Group, and all of our sponsors, are integral to our success. Our long-time partners like JazzCorner, Acrobatique Creative, Flyspace Productions, Carolyn McClair Public Relations, Nice2Media, Ya Momz House, Joey Kennedy Photography, David Roth Photography, Clyde Harris Photography, Bounce Creative, Raff Printing, Pepper Lillie, and Hollowood are a part of our team, and we celebrate this milestone, the 15th edition of the festival, with them. Special thanks to our loyal members and the PIJF Advisory Committee.



We want to be here for another 15 years and beyond! **FUEL THE FUTURE** is our 15th Anniversary Fundraising drive. We're raising \$1.5 million to support the next generation of artists, arts education, and the future of art in Pittsburgh. Celebrate with us and **GIVE TODAY** at awaacc.org/fuelthefuture.

FESTIVAL SCHEDULE

FOR ARTIST BIOS



Events are free unless noted with a star. Starred events require tickets, visit pittsburghjazzfest.org.

FRIDAY 9.19

INSIDE THE AUGUST WILSON AFRICAN AMERICAN CULTURAL CENTER

8:00 PM **GEORGE BENSON TRIBUTE***

9:00 PM **TASTE OF JAZZ PARTY***

featuring T. Marie & Friends, Kenny Blake & the New Hip, Theron Brown, and Selecta

SATURDAY 9.20

OUTDOORS ON LIBERTY AVENUE

11:00 AM **PIJF ALL-STAR BAND** LED BY HOWIE ALEXANDER

11:30 AM **PITTSBURGH CREATIVE AND PERFORMING ARTS (CAPA) JAZZ ENSEMBLE**
MIC'D UP: PHILADELPHIA JAZZ ENSEMBLE

12:30 PM **THERON BROWN**

1:15 PM **MICHAEL MAYO**

2:30 PM **KANDACE SPRINGS**

3:30 PM **KEITH DAVID**

4:30 PM **BE'LA DONA**

5:30 PM **ETIENNE CHARLES CREOLE SOUL**

6:30 PM **TARBABY**

7:45 PM **BRANFORD MARSALIS**

8:45 PM **ERIC BENÉT**

10:00 PM **IMANI ALL STARS JAM SESSION** INSIDE AWAACC

SUNDAY 9.21

OUTDOORS ON LIBERTY AVENUE

11:00 AM **PITTSBURGH CREATIVE AND PERFORMING ARTS (CAPA) JAZZ ENSEMBLE**
MIC'D UP: PHILADELPHIA JAZZ ENSEMBLE

11:30 PM **PIJF ALL-STAR BAND** LED BY HOWIE ALEXANDER

12:30 PM **NATHAN-PAUL & THE ADMIRABLES**

1:15 PM **EKEP NKWELLE**

2:30 PM **JOHN SHANNON**

3:30 PM **OBED CALVAIRE-HAITIAN PROJECT**

4:30 PM **JAZZMEIA HORN**

5:30 PM **ELLA BRIC**

6:30 PM **CHRISTONE "KINGFISH" INGRAM**

7:45 PM **DEE DEE BRIDGEWATER**

8:45 PM **BILAL**



Welcome to the 15th annual Pittsburgh International Jazz Festival, co-presented by Highmark Blue Cross Blue Shield. We are delighted to continue our partnership with the August Wilson African American Cultural Center as a co-presenting sponsor of this exceptional event.

We celebrate the August Wilson Center for their inspired work ensuring the transformative power of arts and culture is within reach for every member of our community. Their dedication strengthens our social fabric, sparks imagination, and elevates the human spirit.

As part of our Highmark Bright Blue Futures charitable giving and community involvement program, we are dedicated to improving community and economic resilience. We are proud to support the Pittsburgh International Jazz Festival, an event that embodies this commitment. By partnering with organizations like the August Wilson Center, Highmark helps enrich the lives of all who attend this cultural cornerstone.

We invite you to join us in experiencing the dazzling energy of this world-class, multi-disciplinary arts center. Enjoy the celebration!

Kenya T. Boswell

Senior Vice President, Community Affairs
at Highmark Health
President, the Highmark Foundation



THANK YOU PITTSBURGH INTERNATIONAL JAZZ FESTIVAL SPONSORS & PARTNERS

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This project is supported in part by the National Endowment for the Arts.

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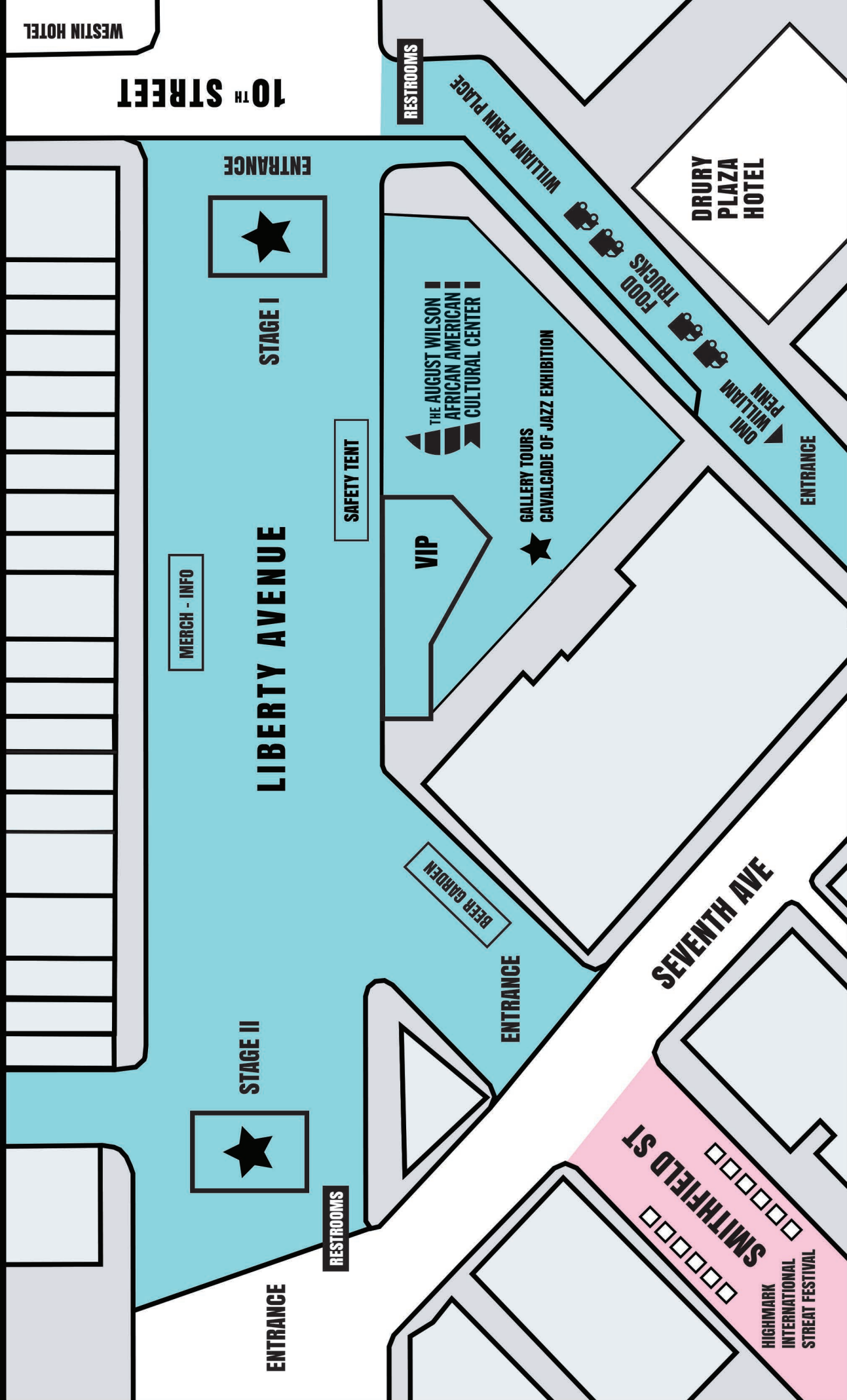


MEDIA PARTNERS



For information regarding sponsorship of PIJF contact Amanda Brandes, Vice President of Institutional Advancement, abrandes@awaacc.org or 412-567-2956.

PIJF FESTIVAL MAP



WESTIN HOTEL

10TH STREET

ENTRANCE

STAGE I

LIBERTY AVENUE

MERCH - INFO

SAFETY TENT

VIP

THE AUGUST WILSON
AFRICAN AMERICAN
CULTURAL CENTER

GALLERY TOURS
CAVALCADE OF JAZZ EXHIBITION

ENTRANCE

BEER GARDEN

STAGE II

ENTRANCE

RESTROOMS

RESTROOMS

WILLIAM PENN PLAGE

FOOD TRUCKS

DRURY
PLAZA
HOTEL

WILLIAM
PENN

ENTRANCE

SEVENTH AVE

SMITHFIELD ST

HIGHMARK
INTERNATIONAL
STREET FESTIVAL

JAZZ CRAWL

CHECK OUT LIVE MUSIC AROUND TOWN

AUGUST WILSON AFRICAN AMERICAN CULTURAL CENTER

980 Liberty Avenue
Pittsburgh, PA 15222
Awaacc.org
(412) 339-1011

INTERMISSION ft. Anita Levels
Thursday, September 18 | 6-10pm
Hosted by Emmal Alaquiva & Friends

QUIET AS KEPT: ACOUSTIC CONCERT SERIES

Erika Denae J
Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh - Homewood
7101 Hamilton Ave, Pittsburgh, PA 15208

Saturday, August 30 | 2-3pm

INEZ
Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh - Brookline
708 Brookline Blvd, Pittsburgh, PA 15226
Tuesday, September 2 | 6-7pm

Vili Dorsey
Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh - Mt. Washington
315 Grandview Ave, Pittsburgh, PA 15211
Saturday, September 13 | 12-1pm

Jacquea Mae
Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh - Hill District
2177 Centre Ave, Pittsburgh, PA 15219
Saturday, September 13 | 12-1pm

JAZZPORT

Pittsburgh International Airport
1000 Airport Blvd, Pittsburgh, PA 15231
flypittsburgh.com

Sean Baker
Thursday, September 4 | 10am-2pm

Caleb Smith
Thursday, September 11 | 3pm-5pm

Josh Stone
Thursday, September 18 | 3pm-5pm

CITY WINERY

1627 Smallman St
Pittsburgh, PA 15222
citywinery.com/pittsburgh
(412) 246-1000

Joe Henry & Mike Reid
Tuesday, September 16 | 7:30pm

SPAGA
Wednesday, September 17 | 7:30pm

Michael Rapp
Thursday, September 18 | 6:30pm

Lyfe Jennings
Friday, September 19 | 6:30pm; 9:30pm

BURN by ROCKY PATEL PITTSBURGH

346 North Shore Drive
Pittsburgh, PA 15212
(412) 586-5854
Burnbyrockypatel.com

Friday, September 19 | 7pm - 2am
Saturday, September 20 | 7pm - 2am

CON ALMA

613 Penn Ave
Pittsburgh, PA 15222
conalmapgh.com
(412) 932-2387

David Throckmorton Quartet
Thursday, September 18 | 7-10pm

The Boilermaker Jazz Band
Friday, September 19 | 7-10pm

Jonathan Michele and Friends
Saturday, September 20 | 7-10pm

The Indestructible Sextet
(Tribute to Art Blakey and Horace Silver)
Sunday, September 21 | 7-10pm

EDDIE V'S

501 Grant St #100
Pittsburgh, PA 15219
eddiev.com

Mary Kay Riley Trio
Thursday, September 18 | 6:30 PM-9:30 pm

Maria Becoates - Bey Trio
Friday, September 19 | 6:30 PM-10:30 pm

Grace Elliott Trio
Saturday, September 20 | 6:30 PM-10:30 pm

Alex Peck Trio
Sunday, September 21 | 6-9pm

GENUINE PUB

111 Sandy Creek Road
Verona, PA 15147
(412) 744-15147

Genuine Soul with Howie Alexander, John Hall, Dennis Garner
Tuesday, September 16th | 8-11pm

KINGFLY SPIRITS

2613 Smallman Street
Pittsburgh, PA 15222
412-392-8928
Kingflyspirits.com

RH Factor Band ft. Roger Humphries
Thursday, September 18 | 7-10pm

Cuban Night ft. Hugo Cruz and Caminos!
Sunday, September 21 | 7-10pm

OMNI WILLIAM PENN HOTEL

530 William Penn Place
Pittsburgh, PA 15222
(412) 253-4921

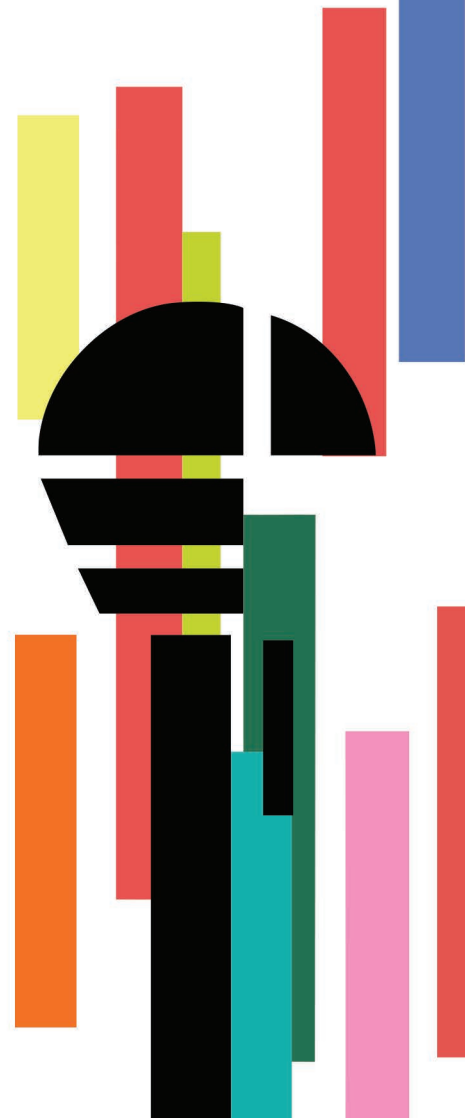
Lobby Live Jazz
Friday, September 19 | 5-7pm

Speakeasy (Lower Level)
Friday, September 19 | 5-11pm
(limited capacity)

JAZZING INTO FALL: PRESENTED BY THE SENIOR JAZZ CONNECTION

FNB Financial Center
626 Washington Place
Pittsburgh, PA 15219
Wear Orange and Brown

Kenny Blake & The New Hip
Friday, September 19 | 12-2pm



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- Christian McBride

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01.27.26 - 02.03.26

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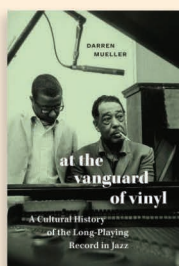
Join us in '26
for the
MOST IMPORTANT
Straight~Ahead
JAZZ EVENT OF THE YEAR!



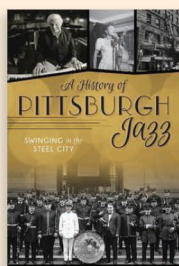
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EXPERIENCES

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carnegielibrary.org



***At the Vanguard of Vinyl
a Cultural History of the
Long-playing Record in Jazz***
Darren Mueller



***A History of Pittsburgh Jazz
Swinging in the Steel City***
Richard Gazarik

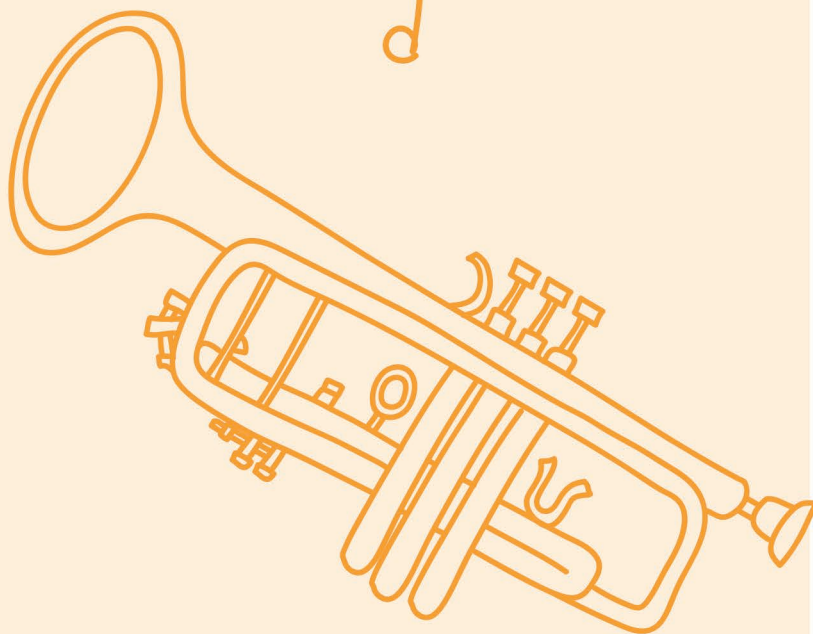
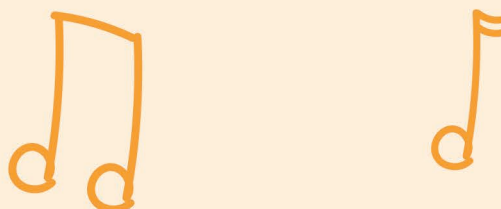


Jazz Radio America
Aaron J. Johnson



Scan for CLP's
Jazz Festival
Reading List!

FREE TO THE PEOPLE





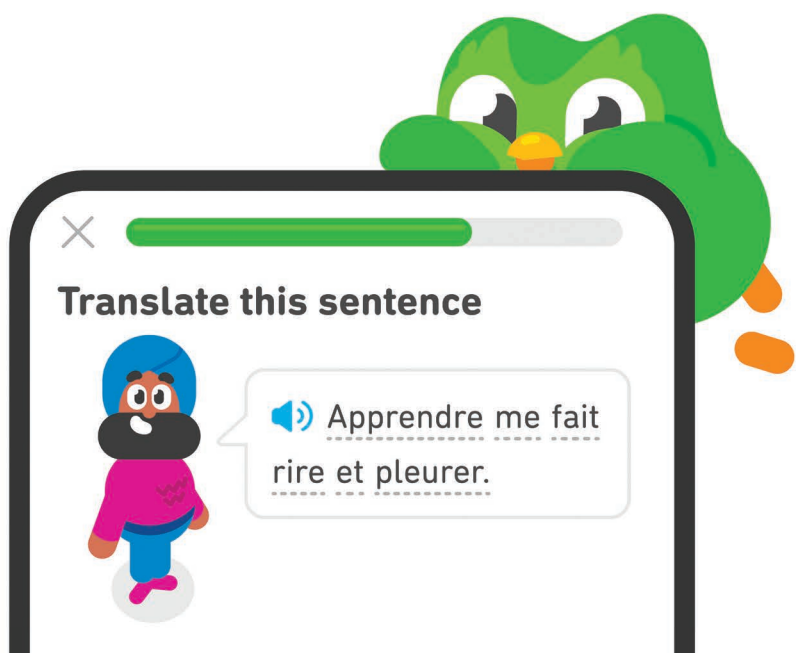
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JAZZ FESTIVAL
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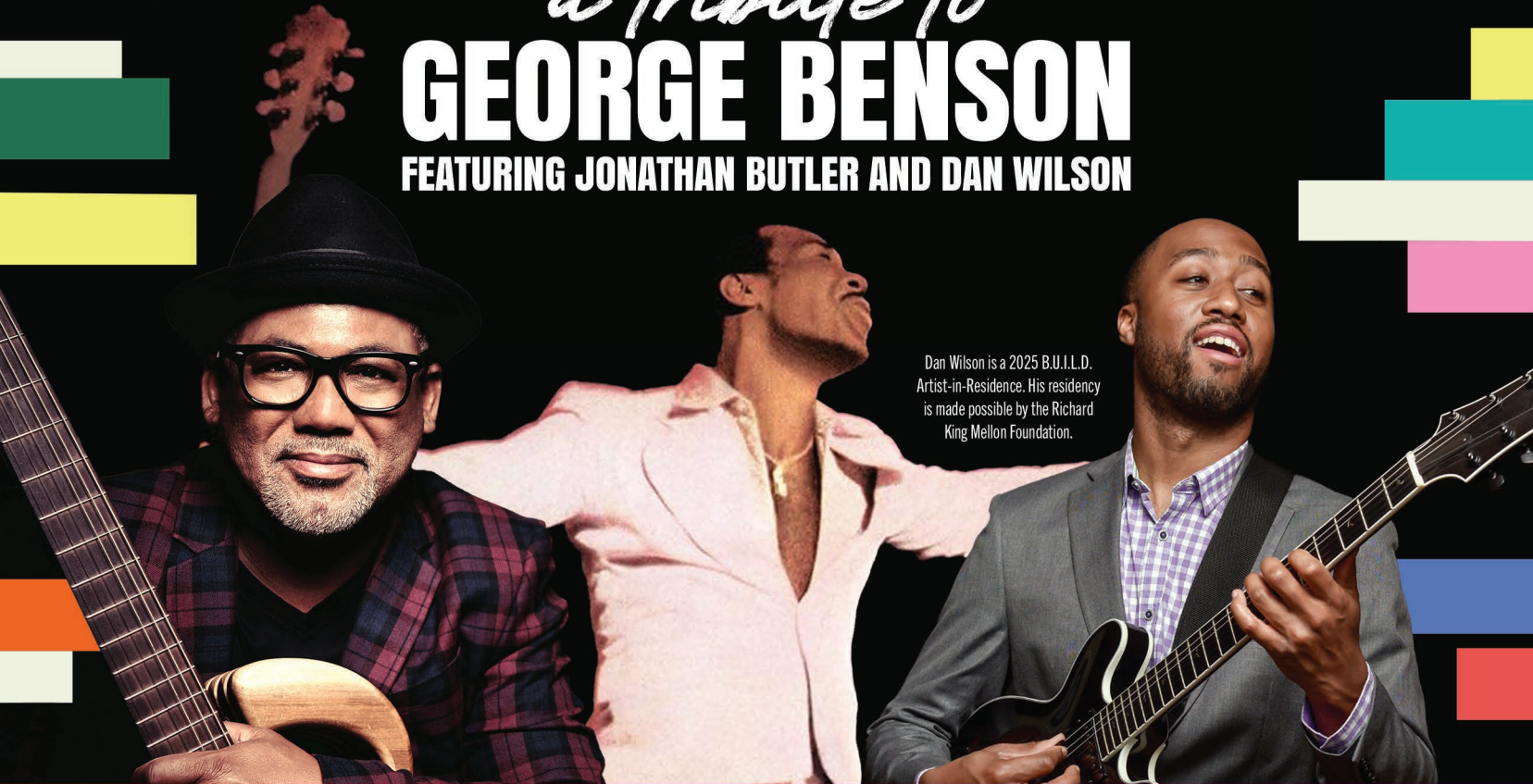
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SEPTEMBER 19TH 8:00^{PM}

a tribute to
GEORGE BENSON

FEATURING JONATHAN BUTLER AND DAN WILSON



Dan Wilson is a 2025 B.U.I.L.D. Artist-in-Residence. His residency is made possible by the Richard King Mellon Foundation.

BECOME AN AWAACC MEMBER TODAY!

The August Wilson African American Cultural Center (AWAACC) relies on its members annual contributions to support all areas of its general operations, including fine art, education, and community programs. The Center also offers FREE or deeply reduced ticket prices to special programs to the community. Your membership gift makes that possible and helps ensure that everyone has access to visual art and entertainment, and education experiences offered by the Center - including the permanent exhibit dedicated to the life and work process of August Wilson, *August Wilson: The Writer's Landscape*.



YOUR BENEFITS

When you make a contribution to the AWAACC, you receive exclusive invitations to special events and artists talk backs, private previews to visual art exhibits, discounted tickets to Center presentations, VIP member access and hospitality at our music and film festivals, early access to the best seating at Center events, and more!

See if membership is right for you! Scan the QR code for more information and membership levels.

TASTE^{OF}JAZZ

980 LIBERTY AVENUE • DOWNTOWN

Taste of Jazz is a Pittsburgh International Jazz Festival tradition, and the most highly anticipated party of the year. It's our way to share a taste of different jazz styles, paired with delicious tastings from Pittsburgh's hottest restaurants.

SEPTEMBER 19TH 9:00PM

Participating Restaurants Include

MORTON'S
THE STEAKHOUSE

Morton's The Steakhouse

A nationally recognized upscale steakhouse known for its prime cuts, polished service, and classic fine-dining experience. A strong anchor for VIP engagement and premium tastings.



barcelona

Barcelona Bar

Offering Spanish small plates and craft cocktails in a lively setting, Barcelona Bar brings vibrant Mediterranean energy to the festival's culinary experience.

VALLOZZI

Vallozzi's Pittsburgh

A family-owned Italian restaurant offering elevated cuisine with house-made pastas and curated wines. Longtime supporters of local culinary events.



Taj Mahal

Showcases the rich and diverse flavors of Indian cuisine, featuring aromatic curries, tandoori specialties, and vegetarian delights, providing an exotic culinary journey.



Talia Cucina Rosticceria

Modern Italian with rustic flair, Talia delivers bold flavors in an energetic setting—perfect for vibrant crowd experiences during the festival.

WHISPER

Whisper

An intimate setting with a high-end ambiance. Self-described as a wine and dessert bar but also offers a robust menu of cocktails and shareable savory foods.

[Braddock's Rebellion]

Braddock's Rebellion

Located in the Renaissance Hotel, Braddock's blends American classics with creative cocktails and nods to Pittsburgh history—ideal for out-of-town guests.

SPIRITS
& TALES
— brasserie social —

Spirit and Tales

Rooted in the spirit of an authentic French brasserie, Spirits & Tales lends a bold perspective to beloved classics on the tenth floor of The Oaklander Hotel.



The Millhouse at Joinery Hotel

A modern wood fire grill, blending bold, flame driven cooking with refined techniques to create a dining experience that's equal parts rustic and elevated.

Con Alma

Con Alma

Celebrates Latin American cuisine with a focus on fresh, local ingredients, presenting flavorful dishes, craft cocktails, and a warm, inviting ambiance.



Alihan's Mediterranean Cuisine

Known for its welcoming atmosphere and flavorful Turkish and Mediterranean dishes, Alihan's adds international diversity and authenticity to the lineup.



Sarris Candies

Founded in 1960 by Frank Sarris, this family-owned and operated chocolate company from Canonsburg, Pennsylvania, offers a wide variety of chocolates.

BISTRO to go
catering • café • community

Bistro to Go

A North Side favorite offering gourmet comfort food, artisan sandwiches, and seasonal catering—great for approachable, high-quality festival bites.



Palm Palm

Offering a vibrant and lively atmosphere, Palm Palm is inspired by the bright, fresh flavors of the coasts and elevated by a thoughtful cocktail program.

**FOGO
DE
CHÃO.**

Fogo de Chão

A well-known Brazilian steakhouse chain offering tableside service and premium grilled meats. Their participation brings a recognizable name and robust presence to the culinary experience.



Original Oyster House

Pittsburgh's oldest restaurant, known for its fresh Atlantic seafood and signature jumbo fish sandwich.



Ritual House

Chic and contemporary, Ritual House offers globally inspired dishes with stylish presentation—an ideal fit for PIJF's upscale, urban vibe.

fl.2
modern american

fl.2

A stylish, modern restaurant offering American cuisine with locally sourced ingredients and innovative preparations, set in a chic, intimate space.

Eddie Merlot's
PRIME AGED BEEF AND SEAFOOD

Eddie Merlot's

An upscale contemporary American steakhouse where we strive to provide an Exceptional Experience for all of our guests.

APPEARING AT THE TASTE OF JAZZ PARTY



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KENNY BLAKE & THE NEW HIP



THERON BROWN



SELECTA

The Pittsburgh International Jazz Festival is made possible thanks to the incredible support of our guests and jazz lovers from around the world. Scan the QR code and take our quick 7-minute survey to help us make future events even better. As a thank-you, you'll be entered for a chance to win 2 VIP Passes to the 2026 Pittsburgh International Jazz Festival!

**WE
VALUE
YOUR
INPUT**



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*"Jazz is the perfection of imperfection.
It makes us feel better.
It can make us be better."*
Kareem Abdul-Jabbar, 2018



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SATURDAY 9.20



12:30PM

**THERON
BROWN**



1:15PM

**MICHAEL
MAYO**



2:30PM

**KANDACE
SPRINGS**



3:30PM

KEITH DAVID



4:30PM

**BE'LA DONA
GO-GO BAND**

Photo Credit: CPI Syndication

PERFORMANCE MADE POSSIBLE BY
VISIT PITTSBURGH



5:30PM

ETIENNE CHARLES
CREOLE SOUL

6:30PM

TARBABY

ORRIN EVANS | ERIC REVIS | NASHEET WAITS



7:45PM

BRANFORD
MARSALIS



8:45PM

ERIC BENÉT

PERFORMANCE MADE POSSIBLE BY

THE WILSON GROUP

SUNDAY 9.21



12:30PM

**NATHAN-PAUL &
THE ADMIRABLES**



1:15PM

**EKEP
NKWELLE**



2:30PM

**JOHN
SHANNON**



3:30PM

**OBED CALVAIRE
HAITIAN PROJECT**



4:30PM

**JAZZMEIA
HORN**

This performance is supported through a Chamber Music America Presenter Consortium for Jazz grant in collaboration with Jazz House Kids and DC Jazz Festival. A component of the Doris Duke Jazz Ensembles Project, Presenter Consortium for Jazz is funded by the Doris Duke Foundation.



5:30PM

ELLA BRIC



6:30PM

**CHRISTONE
"KINGFISH"
INGRAM**



7:45PM

**DEE DEE
BRIDGEWATER**



8:45PM

BILAL

BNY presents

JAZZ LIVE

#jazzlivepgh



September - December
2025

September 9

Scott Hanley with the Max Leake Trio

September 23

Reid Hoyson Quartet

October 7

Mafalda Minnozzi presents
"MEU RIO" featuring Paul Ricci

October 21

Marel Hidalgo Organ Trio

November 4

Ava Lintz Trio

November 18

Lilly Abreu Brazilian Jazz Quartet

December 2

Kinetic 'Generations'

ALBUM RELEASE CELEBRATION

December 16

Emmett Goods Quartet

December 30

Mike Tomaro's New Quartet



Tuesdays 5-7 pm

The Lounge at the Greer Cabaret | 655 Penn Ave

➤ BNY

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partnership
with



[TRUSTARTS.ORG/JAZZLIVE](https://www.trustarts.org/jazzlive)



PITTSBURGH
CULTURAL
TRUST



We are proud to support our creative community.

At Schneider Downs, we believe that the arts are essential to a vibrant and thriving community. That's why we're proud to support the August Wilson African American Cultural Center.



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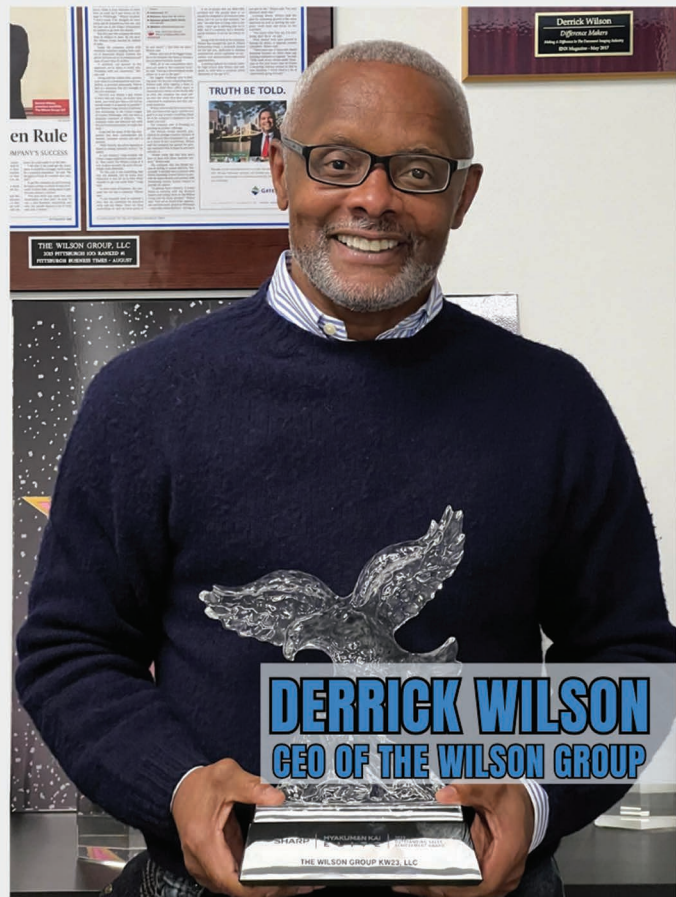
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Thank you to the generous supporters who are fueling the future of the AWAACC through our 15th Anniversary Fundraising Drive.

AUGUST WILSON AFRICAN AMERICAN CULTURAL CENTER

FUEL THE FUTURE

TAKE CENTER STAGE GALA

NOVEMBER 21, 2025

6 PM

You are cordially invited to join us in celebrating the August Wilson African American Cultural Center on **Friday, November 21, 2025 at 6:00pm** at our Fuel the Future: Take Center Stage Gala!

In recognition of the 15th anniversary of our building's opening and what would have been August Wilson's 80th birthday, this year's Gala festivities will be held in our iconic facility at 980 Liberty Avenue. We will celebrate Wilson's ongoing legacy and highlight the Center's world class programming, on stage and in our galleries.

FUEL THE FUTURE: TAKE CENTER STAGE GALA

at the August Wilson African American Cultural Center
980 Liberty Avenue, Pittsburgh, PA 15222

This unforgettable evening will feature:

- A curated dinner experience
- Luminary Awards for three renowned artists with roots in Pittsburgh: Antoine Fuqua, Lamman Rucker, and Tamara Tunie
- Trailblazer Awards for Pittsburgh-based leaders: Tenel Dorsey, Marlon Gist, Ayisha A. Morgan-Lee, EdD, and Monica Malik
- Guided gallery tours featuring the highly anticipated return of Peju Alatise's Flying Girls sculpture installation
- Captivating live performances
- And... more surprises to come!

FOR TICKETS



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15 THE AUGUST WILSON
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Leon N. Hefflin, Sr.

CAVALCADE OF JAZZ

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Cavalcade of Jazz — started, funded, and produced by entrepreneur Leon Hefflin Sr. (August 17, 1898 – November 20, 1975) — was the first ever large-scale outdoor Jazz festival and took place annually every summer from 1945 to 1958. The Cavalcade was held at the 21,000 seat Wrigley Field in South Los Angeles and featured a wide variety of some of the best-known names in Jazz, including: Lionel Hampton, Nat King Cole, Count Basie, Dinah Washington, Josephine Baker, Louis Armstrong, The International Sweethearts of Rhythm, John Birks "Dizzy" Gillespie, and Sarah Vaughn. The Pittsburgh International Jazz Festival honors Mr. Hefflin's legacy and entrepreneurial achievements.

We celebrate this event not only to highlight a lost history in Jazz, but also to acknowledge and recognize a great trailblazer in black business and entrepreneurship: Leon Hefflin Sr. An exhibition of original materials from Cavalcade will be on display in the PIJF Member's Lounge. Additionally, we are so very excited to have Leon's granddaughter, Deborah Swan, at the festival with us. Deborah is an expert in the history of her grandfather and his Cavalcade of Jazz; she will give a presentation on the history of the event Sunday, September 21st, from 1:30pm – 2:30pm in the August Wilson African American Cultural Center's Claude Worthington Benedum Foundation Gallery.



Highmark is proud to support the August Wilson African American Cultural Center and celebrate the 15th Anniversary of the Pittsburgh International Jazz Festival.

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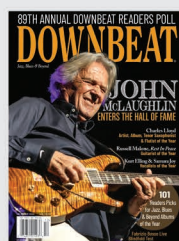


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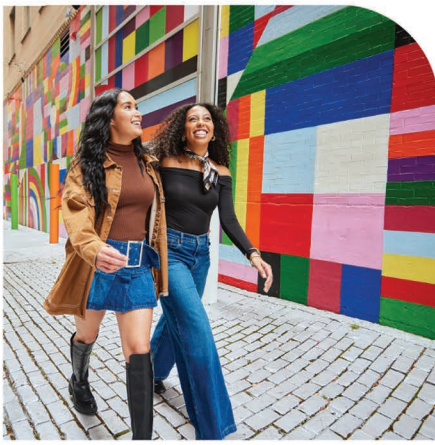
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ABOUT

THE AUGUST WILSON AFRICAN AMERICAN CULTURAL CENTER



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The August Wilson African American Cultural Center (AWAACC) is the second largest Black multi-disciplinary performing arts center in the United States. Situated at the gateway to Pittsburgh, PA's downtown Cultural District, we are committed to offering the majority of our programs for free, welcoming a diverse array of visitors each year, from Pittsburgh and across the country.

We are a gathering place, a performance venue, a museum, and an educational resource for our community.

Our mission is to own and operate a home for the arts, storytelling, learning, and exchange around the African American experience and the rich culture of the African diaspora. We are guided by the enduring truths and essential values evident in the work of August Wilson.

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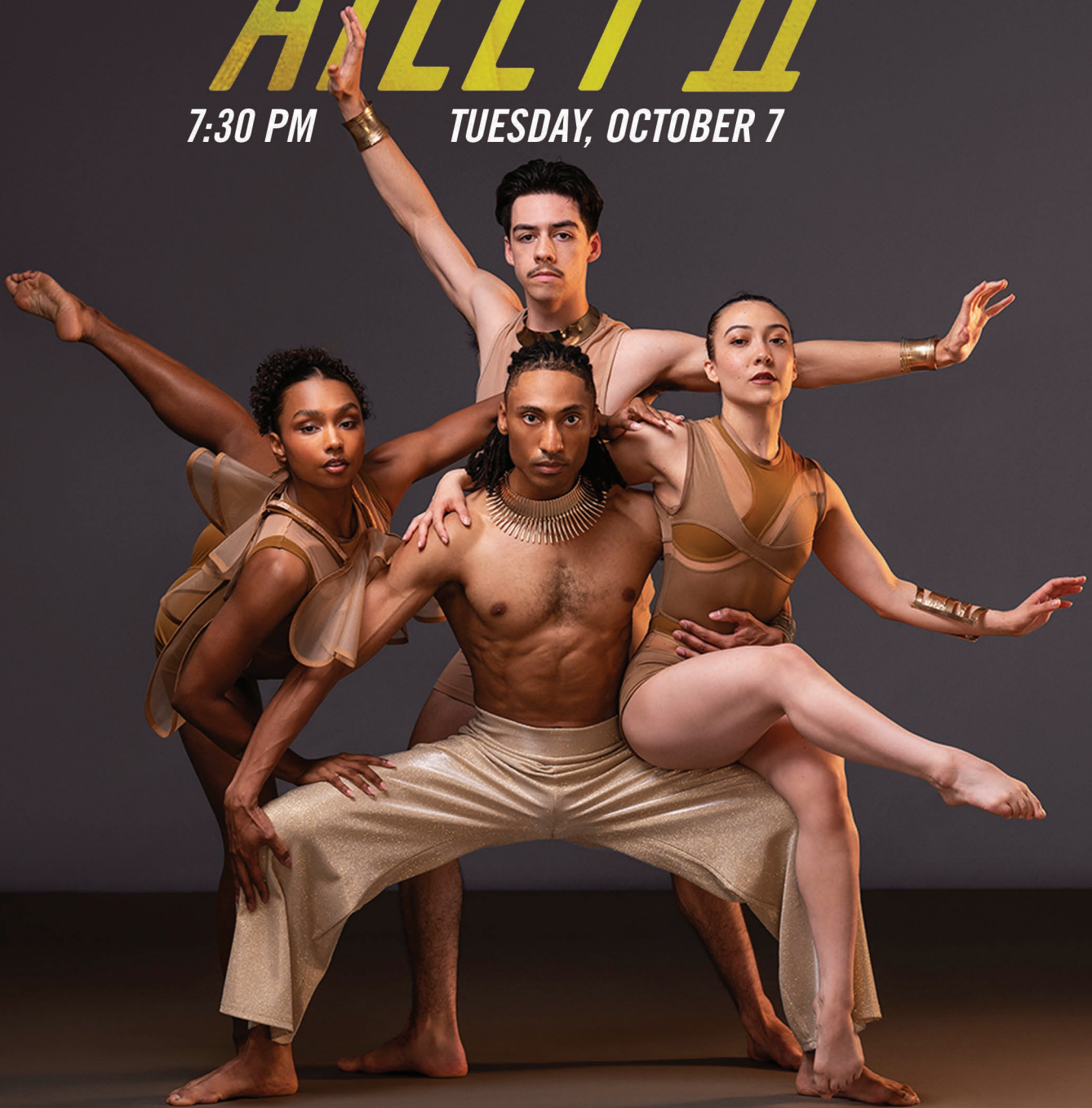
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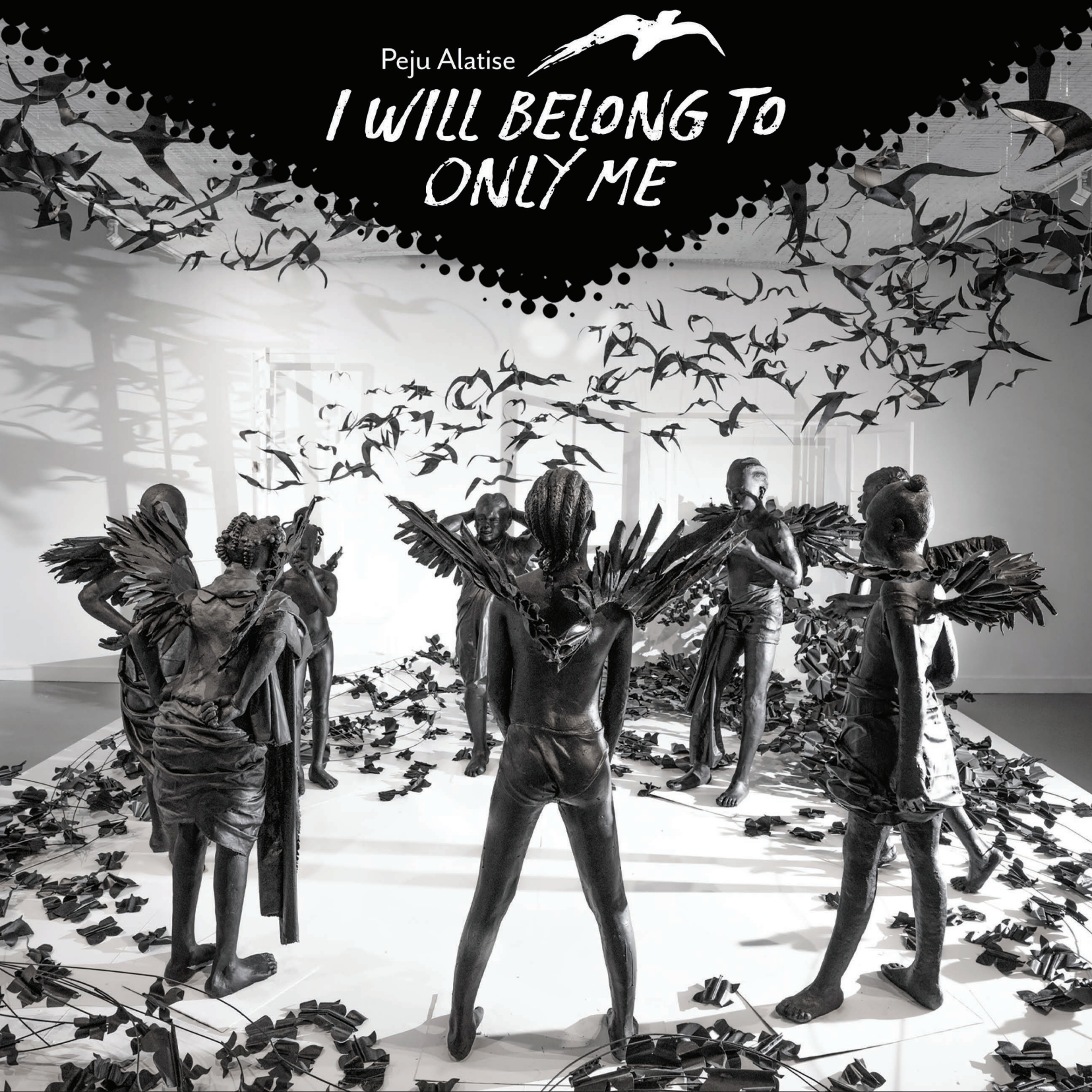


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Peju Alatisé

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Peju Alatisé, *Flying Girls*, 2015/16, plaster cast,
resin, cellulose paint, 157 x 157 x 110 inches.



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