

PITTSBURGH INTERNATIONAL FESTIVAL 2024

SEPTEMBER 19-22, 2024





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WELGOME

WELCOME TO OUR HOMECOMING, AS THE PITTSBURGH INTERNATIONAL JAZZ FESTIVAL (PIJF) RETURNS TO ITS ROOTS.

With the celebration of the 15th anniversary of the opening of the August Wilson African American Cultural Center, we bring the festival back to the streets - and our iconic building. This year we celebrate RESILIENCE. We, at the Center, and artists across genres are forging ahead with tenacity, some at their most creative. Our mission is to preserve the legacy of jazz and amplify the creativity of artists sharing their stories through music.

The PIJF attracts music lovers from all over the country, and Pittsburgh's rich jazz legacy flows through our city, connecting neighborhoods and carrying our culture worldwide. It's going to be a music packed weekend! Thursday, our signature Jazz Train pulls out of the station in NYC and jams with Orrin Evans and company all the way to Pittsburgh. You'll get a chance to hear our local greats at the Jazz Crawl on Friday at restaurants and venues around the city. After the jazz crawl, we honor the sultry, standout vocalist Maysa Leak at a ticketed concert in our beautiful theater. With numerous solo projects, awards and music that has moved us for over 30 years, we will honor Maysa with the 2024 PIJF Luminary Award. Following the concert, we celebrate the 15th anniversary of the building with the Taste of Jazz Party, with restaurants and live jazz throughout the building.

Come together for the FREE jazz street party on Saturday and Sunday with live music on outdoor stages. Bring a chair, grab a delicious meal from the variety of food trucks, enjoy a cold craft beer at our bars curated by Barrel & Flow, let the kids play at our GameZone, and jam to live performances by some of the people leading jazz ahead; Robert Glasper, Sean Jones, Endea Owens & the Cookout, Orrin Evans, Emmet Cohen and more. Blues diva Shemekia Copeland will rock the stage, and we will bid farewell and honor the Scottish soul legends, the Average White Band, on their final tour as a group after 51 years. We will travel musically to Cuba with Cimafunk and to Brazil with Luedji Luna. And we are thrilled that Marsha Ambrosius will close out the Festival on Sunday evening. Don't miss this opportunity to hear new sounds and jam with your favorite artists.

The 2024 Pittsburgh International Jazz Festival is co-presented by Highmark Blue Cross Blue Shield, with generous support from the Mellon Foundation. Additional sponsors include The Wilson Group and UPMC / UPMC Health Plan. We are grateful to the many sponsors who make this Festival possible. For a complete list, please see page 4 of this program book.

Essential support for AWAACC's operations year-round is provided by the Richard King Mellon Foundation, Henry L. Hillman Foundation, Heinz Endowments, and the Allegheny Regional Asset District (RAD). Finally, special thanks to our members and individual donors for their generosity!

JANIS BURLEY

President & CEO/Artistic Director
PIJF Director







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

THURSDAY 9.19

INTERMISSION @ THE AUGUST WILSON AFRICAN AMERICAN CULTURAL CENTER

6:00 PM DJ SMI

7:30 PM THE LEGACY ARTS PROJECT

7:45 PM WINSTON BELL

8:15PM DJ SMI

FRIDAY 9.20

INSIDE THE AUGUST WILSON AFRICAN AMERICAN CULTURAL CENTER

8:00 PM

MAYSA**

9:00 PM

TASTE OF JAZZ PARTY**

featuring Selecta, Howie Alexander, Thomas Wendt Quintet and Reagan Gray & Black Vitaminz

SATURDAY 9.21

OUTDOORS ON LIBERTY AVENUE

1:00 PM DJ BIG PHILL

2:15 PM HOWIE ALEXANDER

3:30 PM DAN WILSON

4:45 PM ENDEA OWENS

6:00 PM SHEMEKIA COPELAND

7:15 PM CIMAFUNK

8:45 PM ROBERT GLASPER

INSIDE THE AUGUST WILSON AFRICAN AMERICAN CULTURAL CENTER

10:00 PM CHRIS COLES FT. SEAN JONES**

10:30 PM IMANI ALL STARS JAM SESSION

SUNDAY 9.22

OUTDOORS ON LIBERTY AVENUE

1:00 PM VANISHA GOULD

2:15 PM EMMET COHEN

3:00 PM AVERAGE WHITE BAND

4:45 PM ORRIN EVANS & THE CAPTAIN BLACK BIG BAND

6:00 PM LUEDJI LUNA

7:15 PM SEAN JONES

8:45 PM MARSHA AMBROSIUS



An Independent Licensee of the Blue Cross and Blue Shield Association

Welcome to the 14th Pittsburgh International Jazz Festival, co-presented by Highmark Blue Cross Blue Shield. We are thrilled to once again stand alongside the August Wilson African American Cultural Center as a co-presenting sponsor of this extraordinary event.

We celebrate the August Wilson Center's unwavering commitment to bringing the transformative power of arts and culture to the forefront of our community. Their dedication fosters a vibrant cultural landscape, ignites passion, and enriches the lives of all who experience it.

This festival is more than just music; it's a testament to the power of collaboration and a catalyst for economic growth. By partnering with the August Wilson Center, Highmark is proud to invest in the health and resilience of our community. This event brings people together, promotes understanding, and introduces new voices and perspectives, embodying the spirit of our Highmark Bright Blue Futures program.

We invite you to immerse yourself in the vibrant energy of this world-class, multi-disciplinary arts center. Join us in celebrating the power of music and the profound impact of the arts. Enjoy the celebration!

Kenya T. Boswell

Kempa 7. Sowell

Senior Vice President Community Affairs Highmark Health



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For information regarding sponsorship of PIJF contact:

Amanda Brandes Vice President Institutional Advancement abrandes@awaacc.org 412-567-2956

THE AUGUST WILSON AFRICAN AMERICAN CULTURAL CENTER



MAKE A DONATION TO THE AWAACC 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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MAYSA

FRIDAY SEP 20 8:00PM

Maysa is the kind of singer who takes hold of a song and enraptures her audience in the palm of her hands, as she delivers lyrics, phrases, melodies and harmonies in a way that only she can. Blessed with an instantly identifiable honey-toned mezzo-soprano and an undeniably brilliant and magnetic stage presence, Maysa's alluring vocals, candor, honesty, humor and purity as an artist make her a rarity in this business. Having collaborated with everyone from Stevie Wonder to Incognito, Angela Bofill, Will Downing and Jonathan Butler, Maysa can hang with the best. It is no wonder she was the recipient of many awards for her work, including Soul Train's first Centric Award in 2009, and her first Grammy nomination for Best Traditional R&B Performance for her remake of Nancy Wilson's 'QUIET FIRE" in 2014.

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Crafted in collaboration with Press House Coffee for the 2024 Pittsburgh International Jazz Festival, our inaugural blend, Long Short Long, is a medium-light roast featuring Nicaraguan and Colombian beans. Tasting Notes: Peach, Orange, Cola

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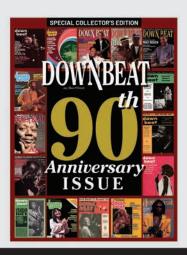
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"Jazz is the perfection of imperfection. It makes us feel better. It can make us be better." Kareem Abdul-Jabbar, 2018









September - October 2024

Sep 3 Salsamba

Sep 10 Bill Bonidie Quartet

Sep 17 Joe Sheehan & Kinetic

Sep 24 Eric Johnson & The Fabalous A-Team

Oct 1 Concord Jazz

Quartet Celebrates
the MJQ

Oct 8 Tommy Lehman

Oct 15 Colter Harper Trio

Oct 22 John Hall Quartet

Oct 29 Tania Grubbs

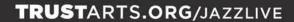
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TheWilsonGroup.com



AWAACC'S 15TH ANNIVERSARY

FUEL THE FUTURE

On September 17, 2009, thanks to the work of a group of committed visionaries, community activists, business leaders and philanthropists, the August Wilson Center for African American Culture opened its doors. Fifteen years later, the August Wilson African American Cultural Center (AWAACC) is the second largest Black multidisciplinary arts center in the country!

SUPPORT AWAACC



Join us as we celebrate our accomplishments and lay the groundwork for our future as a place where art and culture are created, presented, and ignite the imaginations of future generations, in Pittsburgh and throughout our nation!



AN EVENING OF DANCING, FOOD AND BEVERAGE TASTINGS, AND MORE!



SEP 20TH 9PM

AUGUST WILSON AFRICAN AMERICAN CULTURAL CENTER

980 LIBERTY AVENUE

DOWNTOWN

PARTICIPATING VENDORS

















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TASTE OF PERFORMANCES BY



A pioneer of the Pittsburgh DJ and Hip-Hop scene since the late 1980s, James Scoglietti, better known simply as Selecta (the DJ moniker is superfluous as Selecta is Jamaican patois for "DJ") started his DJ career in 1988 at the ripe age of 15 as a frequent guest on the University of Pittsburgh's WPTS radio station. He then parlayed his radio experience into residencies at several of Pittsburgh's most celebrated venues over the years to follow. In 1998, he was named "Best Hip-Hop Radio Personality" by In-Pittsburgh News Weekly, and the following year he opened Pittsburgh's first solely Hip-Hop based retail music outlet, 720 Records. 720 would go on to morph into a coffee shop, retail outlet and performance space, before shuttering in 2015.

HOWIE ALEXANDER, who hails from Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, grew up in a home filled with jazz, R&B, and funk. Howie began playing piano when he was 15, and 27 years later, with performances with the Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra, Poogie Bell, Ciaro, and the likes of Stanley Turrentine on his resume, the Duquesne University graduate performs as sideman or headliner at venues from Pittsburgh to Monaco. He has been a piano instructor at the Afro-American Music Institute since 1994, and now serves as Artistic Director.

Howie Alexander is a B.U.I.L.D. 2024 Artist in Residence. His residency is made possible by the Richard King Mellon Foundation.



Reagan Gray is a dynamic vocalist that snatches the attention of her audience immediately. Her smoky gray timbre is paired with undertones of a smooth jazz vibrato and rock grit making it obvious to differentiate her from any other vocalist. It's apparent with her unapologetic and commanding stage presence that Reagan Gray is undeniably what music has been missing. With the support of her fans called "The Gray Ones" Reagan continues to wow audiences and deliver consistent jaw dropping performances of original music and covering many of the greats!



A graduate of the Pittsburgh High School for the Creative and Performing Arts, Thomas Wendt has been a professional musician since the age of 14. Based in Pittsburgh, Thomas is an active member of the current Jazz scene playing with groups led by Joe Negri, Dwayne Dolphin, Mark Strickland, Kenia and the latin Jazz group Salsamba in addition to leading his own groups including the sextet, Firm Roots. He is also a member of the newly reformed Pittsburgh Jazz Orchestra. Thomas has played with many visiting international Jazz greats including Clark Terry, Donald Byrd, David "Fathead" Newman, Benny Golson, Monty Alexander, James Moody, Jimmy Heath, Christian McBride, Curtis Lundy and Geri Allen.



SEPTEMBER 3-22, 2024

CHECK OUT LIVE MUSIC AROUND TOWN

AUGUST WILSON AFRICAN AMERICAN CULTURAL CENTER

980 Liberty Avenue Pittsburgh, PA 15222 https://awaacc.org

Thursday, 9/19
THE INTERMISSION: WINSTON BELL
6-9PM

BURN by ROCKY PATEL PITTSBURGH

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

> Friday, 9/20 LIVE MUSIC Saturday, 9/21

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2350 Railroad St, Pittsburgh, PA 15222 cioppinoofpittsburgh.com (412) 281-6593

Saturday, 9/21 ERIC DEFADE 7-10PM

CITY WINERY

1627 Smallman St, Pittsburgh, PA 15222 (412) 246-100 For tickets: https://citywinery.com

Tuesday, 9/17 TALIB KWELI 7:30PM

Thursday, 9/19 JARROD LAWSON

CON ALMA

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

Thursday, 9/19 DWAYNE DOLPHIN FO'TET 6:00-9:00PM

Friday, 9/20 BOBBY SELVAGIO QUARTET 5:30-8:30PM

REGGIE WATKINS 9:00PM-until

Saturday, 9/21 JASON KUSH QUARTET 5:30-8:30PM

PAUL THOMPSON'S WAYNETET (Tribute to Wayne Shorter) 9:00PM-until

Sunday, 9/21 DAVID THROCKMORTON QUARTET featuring JOHN SHANNON 5:00PM-until

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Friday, 9/20 KENNY STOCKARD 6:30-10:30PM

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> Friday, 9/20 FRANK CUNIMONDO 5:00-7:00PM

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> Thursday, 9/19 ROGER HUMPHRIES 7:00-10:00PM

Saturday, 9/21 DRAG BRUNCH 12:30-3:00PM

JAZZ @ THE LIBRARY

CARNEGIE LIBRARY OF HOMEWOOD

7101 Homewood Avenue Pittsburgh, PA 15208

> Tuesday, 9/3 YOKO SUZUKI 6:00PM

CARNEGIE LIBRARY OF BROOKLINE

708 Brookline Boulevard Pittsburgh, PA 15226

> Thursday, 9/5 DENNIS GARNER 5:30PM

CARNEGIE LIBRARY OF PITTSBURGH

4724 Baum Boulevard Pittsburgh, PA 15213

> Friday, 9/6 GEORGE HEID III

CARNEGIE LIBRARY OF PITTSBURGH WOODS RUN

1201 Woods Run Avenue Pittsburgh, PA 15212

> Wednesday, 9/11 ANYAH NANCY 6:00PM

JAZZPORT @ THE PITTSBURGH NATIONAL AIRPORT

https://flypittsburgh.com/events/

Monday, 9/16 WINSTON BELL 3:00-5:00PM

Wednesday, 9/18 ANYAH NANCY 10:00AM-NOON

Thursday, 9/19 BYRON NASH 3:00-5:00PM





1:00PM DJ BIG PHILL

Phillip Thompson aka Big Phill is a 2024 B.U.I.L.D. Artist-in-Residence. His residency is made possible by the Richard King Mellon Foundation.

2:15PM HOWIE ALEXAL

Howie Alexander is a 2024 B.U.I.L.D. Artist-in-Residence. His residency is made possible by the Richard King Mellon Foundation.

ALEXANDER

3:30PM DAN WILSON



4:45PM ENDEA OWENS & THE COOKOUT 6:00PM SHEMEKIA COPELAND





10:00PM CHRIS COLES FT. SEAN JONES 10:30PM IMANI ALL STARS JAM SESSION





6:00PM LUEDJI LUNA

This engagement of Luedji Luna is made possible in part through the Performing Arts Global Exchange program of Mid Atlantic Arts with support from the National Endowment for the Arts and the Instituto Guimarães Rosa.





7:15PM SEAN JONES



Performance made possible by





The first-ever immersive exhibition dedicated to the life and works of Pulitzer Prize-winning playwright August Wilson.

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CHRIS COLES' NINE LIVES PROJECT FT. SEAN JONES

SATURDAY SEP 21 10:00PM

Nine Lives is an immersive musical and choreographed performance involving different mediums — including jazz, dance and animation — and reflecting on issues of social justice, racial inequality and gun violence. It is based upon the 2015 shooting in Charleston, South Carolina, in which a white supremacist killed nine Black parishioners at Emanuel AME Church.

Named one of Cleveland Magazine's "Most Interesting People of 2021," Chris Coles serves on the faculty of the Tri-C JazzFest Academy and Kent State University. In 2017, he was awarded a Knight Foundation Arts Challenge Grant for the Nine Lives Project. Chris is a Yamaha Performing Artist currently based out of Akron, Ohio and serves on the faculty at Oberlin Conservatory, The University of Akron and The Tri-C Creative Arts JazzFest Academy where he takes pride in bridging the gap to help the next generation of jazz giants.

Coles will be joined by trumpeter, bandleader, composer, educator, and activist Sean Jones. Jones is an internationally recognized educator, currently holding the Richard and Elizabeth Case Chair of Jazz at Johns Hopkins University's Peabody Conservatory and is Artistic Director of Carnegie Hall's NYO Jazz ensemble. Previously, Jones was Chair of the Brass Department at Berklee College of Music and served as President of the Jazz Educators Network.















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. Admission to the AWAACC is FREE and open to the public. 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 - FREE of charge, 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.



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