

MAR 31, 2016, 10:00 AM

D.C. Hosts 2016 International Jazz Day

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Legendary pianist Herbie Hancock co-chairs International Jazz Day on April 30th.

The District will host the 2016 iteration of [International Jazz Day](#) on April 30th. The annual recognition of one of America's great art forms also serves as the culmination of [Jazz Appreciation Month](#). Paris, Osaka, and Istanbul have served as the past three host cities.

The White House will host the 5th anniversary International Jazz Day All-Star Global Concert on April 29th, and the all-star performance will be broadcast on the following day as a one-hour primetime ABC television special. The concert will also stream on the United Nations, UNESCO, U.S. State Department, and White House websites.

Performers at this year's concert include an impressive cross-section of the international jazz community. The lineup includes Joey Alexander, Terence Blanchard, Kris Bowers, Dee Dee Bridgewater, Till Brönner, Terri Lyne Carrington, Chick Corea, Jamie Cullum, Kurt Elling, Aretha Franklin, Robert Glasper, Buddy Guy, Herbie Hancock, Dave Holland, Zakir Hussain, Al Jarreau, Diana Krall, Lionel Loueke, Hugh Masekela, Christian McBride, John McLaughlin, Pat Metheny, Marcus Miller, James Morrison, Danilo Pérez, Rebirth Brass Band, Dianne Reeves, Lee Ritenour, David Sánchez, Wayne Shorter, Esperanza Spalding, Sting, Trombone Shorty, Chucho Valdés, Bobby Watson, and Ben Williams. John Beasley will serve as the evening's musical director.

The day will also feature a number of workshops and masterclasses around the city; the schedule will be released as it becomes finalized.

The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization officially designated April 30 as International Jazz Day in November 2011. The annual event's purpose is to "highlight jazz and its diplomatic role of uniting people in all corners of the globe," and UNESCO Director General Irina Bokova chairs the program along with [Herbie Hancock](#). The legendary jazz pianist serves as a UNESCO Ambassador for Intercultural Dialogue and Chairman of the Thelonious Monk Institute of Jazz.

"We are thrilled that President Obama and Michelle Obama are hosting the International Jazz Day All-Star Global Concert at the White House, and are truly grateful for their commitment to jazz and its role in building bridges and uniting people around the world," Hancock said in a release.