

Barack Obama to host 2016 International Jazz Day concert at White House

By Martin Chilton, CULTURE EDITOR 31 March 2016 • 11:31am



President Obama celebrating his birthday in 2011 with Herbie Hancock, in Chicago CREDIT: Rex Features

President Barack Obama will host a concert at the White House on 29 April for [International Jazz Day](#). The concert, which will feature Herbie Hancock, Al Jarreau, Aretha Franklin and Sting, will be televised by ABC. First Lady Michelle Obama once told the audience at South by Southwest festival in Austin that one of her grandfathers collected jazz records and that she would visit him on Saturdays while growing up in Chicago "and I would just play music with him". The Obamas "welcomed us with open arms," Hancock said.

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The award-winning pianist and bandleader said "incredible" jazz musicians are now everywhere. "That really shows me the power of the music and the fact that it has reached every country on the planet," Hancock told The Associated Press.



Herbie Hancock CREDIT: AFP/Getty Images

UNESCO and the Thelonious Monk Institute of Jazz are the sponsors of International Jazz Day, a worldwide celebration of jazz music.

Previous host cities for International Jazz Day were Istanbul, Turkey, in 2013; Osaka, Japan, in 2014; and Paris in 2015. Last year's programming reached more than 2.8 billion people, Tom Carter, president of the Thelonious Monk Institute of Jazz, said.

UK events for International Jazz Day

Gilmore n' Jaz (venue to be announced) Jazz Line Up live from the Blue Lamp (in Aberdeen)

Gus Stirrat Band & Stan Sulzmann Quartet Ribble Valley Jazz Festival on International Jazz Day, Clitheroe, Lancashire.

The After Dark Fonksters Mother Fonkin' Celebration, Sungnall Hall, Staffordshire.

100 Years of Jazz in 99 Minutes, Cadogan Hall, London.

Young Music Makers: Open Big Band and Jam Session, La Sainte Union School, London.

Pigfoot Play (Chris Batchelor: trumpet; Liam Noble: piano; Oren Marshall: tuba; Paul Clarvis: drums): The Vortex Jazz Club, London.

John Etheridge with Interplay, The Restaurant In The Park, Leamington Spa.

Jazz Film in The Studio, The Studio, Warwickshire.

Yolanda Brown: Reggae Love Songs, Watford Colosseum.

For full details and timings, see JazzDay.com