

Barack Obama to host International Jazz Day concert at White House

Herbie Hancock, Aretha Franklin and Sting among dozens of stars lined up for celebration at the home of the US president



'What's Sting doing on trombone?' ... Barack Obama, who will host a concert for International Jazz Day. Photograph: Chip Somodevilla/Getty Images

One of the many perks of being the US president is that if you fancy hosting an International Jazz Day concert from your front room, you can. Barack Obama and wife Michelle have announced plans to hold a concert next month, featuring a string of musical legends including [Aretha Franklin](#), Al Jarreau, Sting and Herbie Hancock.

The show will take place at the White House, Washington DC – this year's host city – on 29 April, and will be televised a day later by ABC, to mark the fifth anniversary of International [Jazz](#) Day.

"Jazz has been a uniting force and very unifying for people all over the world for the last century," Tom Carter, president of the Thelonious Monk Institute of Jazz, told the Associated Press.

“It is the voice for many of those facing challenges around the world.”



Old hand ... Herbie Hancock at a state reception at the White House in 2011. Photograph: Alex Wong/Getty Images

Jazz great [Herbie Hancock](#) said that jazz’s influence has spread beyond its roots in America, and now “incredible” jazz musicians are found everywhere.

“That really shows me the power of the music and the fact that it has reached every country on the planet,” Hancock said.

In previous years, host cities for International Jazz Day have included Istanbul and Paris.

Other performers on the day will include Joey Alexander, Terence Blanchard, Kris Bowers, Dee Dee Bridgewater, Till Brönner, Terri Lyne Carrington, Chick Corea, Jamie Cullum, Kurt Elling, Robert Glasper, Buddy Guy, Dave Holland, Zakir Hussain, 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, Trombone Shorty, Chucho Valdés, Bobby Watson and Ben Williams. John Beasley is overall musical director.