



INTERNATIONAL JAZZ DAY

In November 2011, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) officially designated April 30 as International Jazz Day in order to highlight jazz and its diplomatic role of uniting people in all corners of the globe. Through this united effort, International Jazz Day is the one day each year that jazz is celebrated worldwide, bringing together people of all ages, backgrounds and nationalities in 195 countries. International Jazz Day is chaired and led by Irina Bokova, UNESCO Director General, and legendary jazz pianist and composer Herbie Hancock, who serves as a UNESCO Goodwill Ambassador for Intercultural Dialogue and Chairman of the Thelonious Monk Institute of Jazz. The Institute is the lead nonprofit organization charged with planning, promoting and producing this annual worldwide celebration.



UNESCO Director General Irina Bokova and UNESCO Goodwill Ambassador Herbie Hancock speak at the first annual International Jazz Day in 2012.

In December 2012, the United Nations General Assembly officially welcomed the decision by the General Conference of UNESCO to proclaim April 30 as International Jazz Day. The United Nations called upon its Member States to participate actively in the celebration of International Jazz Day in order to develop and increase intercultural exchanges and understanding between cultures for the purpose of mutual comprehension and tolerance. **International Jazz Day, April 30, is recognized on the official calendars of both the United Nations and UNESCO.**

The past five International Jazz Day celebrations were enormous successes. **International Jazz Day live performances, education programs and media coverage reached more than 3 billion people in 2016 alone.** People all over the world joined forces to celebrate jazz as a universal force for peace, dialogue and unity. Spanning the globe in all directions, jazz brought together people regardless of borders, distance and differences to show their support for the power of jazz, its ethical dimensions, and its potential to galvanize support for freedom, democracy and mutual respect.



UNESCO Goodwill Ambassador Herbie Hancock with a student musician at the fifth annual International Jazz Day Global Host celebration in Washington, D.C. (USA)

Washington, D.C. (USA) served as the International Jazz Day 2016 Global Host City. President Barack Obama and First Lady Michelle Obama hosted the International Jazz Day All-Star Global Concert at the White House. The show aired as a U.S. network television special and was streamed around the world via the United Nations, UNESCO and U.S. State Department.

More than 60 jazz performances, education programs and community service initiatives were presented free of charge across Washington, D.C. on the National Mall, at historic Dupont Circle, in the city's metro stations, and at museums, libraries, social service agencies, hospitals and performing arts centers.

Jazz is a musical art form embraced all over the world. For more than a century, jazz has helped uplift millions of people in all corners of the globe. International Jazz Day highlights and leverages the unifying attributes of this music through extraordinary events and programs worldwide on April 30 of each year.

International Jazz Day brings together communities, schools, artists, historians, academics and jazz enthusiasts all over the world to celebrate and learn about jazz and its roots, future and impact; raise awareness of the need for intercultural dialogue and mutual understanding; and reinforce international cooperation and communication. Every year on April 30, this international art form is recognized for fostering gender equality and for promoting individual expression, peace, dialogue among cultures, diversity, respect for human dignity, and the eradication of discrimination.



World-renowned artists participate in the International Jazz Day 2012 All-Star Global Concert at the United Nations General Assembly Hall in New York



Internationally acclaimed bassist and UNESCO Artist for Peace Marcus Miller interacts with music students at Paris' Conservatoire a Rayonnement Régional

The educational and community service dimensions of International Jazz Day are what set this day apart from the multitude of concerts and jazz festivals taking place every day around the world. International Jazz Day offers meaningful education and outreach programs for people of all ages, as well as community service initiatives for vulnerable populations including the homeless, elderly, disabled and critically ill. International Jazz Day carries the unique mandate of promoting the values of jazz to inspire dialogue and understanding. Worldwide education programs emphasize the importance of sharing the history of jazz and reflecting upon the mutual respect and democratic principles needed for the music to thrive.

According to Herbie Hancock, "On International Jazz Day, jazz is celebrated, studied and performed around the world for 24 hours straight. Collaborations abound among jazz icons, scholars, composers, musicians, dancers, writers and thinkers who embrace the beauty, spirit and principles of jazz, freely sharing experiences and performances in our big cities and small towns, all across our seven continents. I can't think of a better way to build peace and cultural understanding, the core principles of UNESCO."



Herbie Hancock delivers remarks at the historic Osaka Castle for International Jazz Day 2014

UNESCO Director General Irina Bokova has said, “On International Jazz Day, the world comes together in peace and harmony, to share a passion for music and to join forces for freedom and creativity. Jazz draws roots from a great mix of people and cultures – from Africa, Europe, and the Caribbean. Nurtured in the United States, it is now woven into the fabric of every society, played across the world, enjoyed everywhere. This diversity makes jazz a powerful force for dialogue and understanding. Jazz provided the soundtrack for past struggles for dignity and civil rights. It remains today a force for social transformation, because it tells a story of freedom that all people share.”

UNESCO and United Nations missions, embassies, and government outposts around the world host special events to honor this revered musical art form. Additionally, UNESCO and the Thelonious Monk Institute promote the celebration to universities, libraries, schools, community centers, performing arts venues and arts organizations of all disciplines around the world. Each year, these organizations observe the day through jazz concerts, workshops, seminars, roundtable discussions, book readings, public jam sessions, master classes, photo exhibitions, dance recitals, film and documentary screenings, theater presentations and spoken word performances.

In its inaugural year, International Jazz Day 2012 kicked off with a sunrise concert in New Orleans’ Congo Square (USA) – the birthplace of jazz – and a sunset concert at the United Nations General Assembly Hall in New York (USA) with dozens of world-renowned musicians. Herbie Hancock’s Congo Square performance with a group of the Institute’s high school jazz musicians was part of a live simulcast that enabled students from Cape Town (South Africa), Paris (France) and Rio de Janeiro (Brazil) to join in the performance. This was broadcast live via CNN and *CBS This Morning*. Additionally, nations around the world presented education programs and performances.



International Jazz Day 2012 begins with a Sunrise Concert at New Orleans' Congo Square, the birthplace of jazz



Acclaimed artists from around the world perform in the International Jazz Day 2013 All-Star Global Concert at Istanbul, Turkey's Hagia Irene, dating back to the 4th century

In 2013, Istanbul (Turkey) served as International Jazz Day Global Host City, presenting 40 programs, including a daylong series of education programs conducted by leading musicians and educators. Over 30 internationally acclaimed artists performed in an All-Star Global Concert at Istanbul’s Hagia Irene that was streamed live worldwide via the United Nations, UNESCO and U.S. State Department.

The concert also was seen live by more than 60,000 Istanbul residents who watched the performances on giant screens that were set up in two public squares spanning two continents as part of the Community Square Live Simulcast.



Astronauts aboard the International Space Station deliver a goodwill message on International Jazz Day 2014

Osaka (Japan) was the 2014 Global Host City and presented a full day of education programs, including master classes, lectures, panel discussions, jam sessions and film screenings at the Osaka School of Music. Five of the sessions were streamed live via jazzday.com and the UNESCO website. The day culminated with an extraordinary All-Star Global Concert for 10,000 people at the historic Osaka Castle Park that was streamed live worldwide and taped for broadcast by public television stations around the world.

In addition, the captain and crew of the International Space Station delivered a special message recognizing International Jazz Day 2014, demonstrating that jazz truly has no boundaries.

Paris (France) served as the International Jazz Day 2015 Global Host City. An All-Star Global Concert and a full day of jazz education programs were presented across the city and at UNESCO's global headquarters in Paris as part of the high-profile events celebrating UNESCO's 70th anniversary. Paris hosted more than 80 special events, including community service initiatives at pediatric hospitals, homeless shelters, soup kitchens, community centers, senior care facilities and the National Institute for Blind Youth. Globally, thousands of International Jazz Day 2015 programs reached some of the most vulnerable communities, including refugee camps and war-torn areas.



Tuba player Gary Kiser and clarinetist Oran Etkin conduct a workshop for children with serious illness and their family members at Necker Pediatric Hospital in Paris

Beyond Washington, D.C., an enormous range of jazz performances and programs celebrating International Jazz Day 2016 took place in all 50 U.S. states and in more than 190 countries. In Yerevan (Armenia), the Armenian State Jazz Big Band played jazz standards, while in New Zealand, the University of Auckland held a lecture exploring the city's jazz heritage. Lagos (Nigeria) presented Satchmo's Jazz & Cultural Festival Lagos, and JAZZ.brussels organized a joyous jazz parade in the streets of downtown Brussels (Belgium). More than 30 venues across the Republic of Korea participated in Korea Jazz Club Day.

International Jazz Day has been celebrated each year through thousands of programs in all 195 United Nations and UNESCO Member States on all seven continents, including Antarctica.