



ARTISTS FROM ACROSS THE GLOBE GRACE THE STAGE IN ISTANBUL FOR INTERNATIONAL JAZZ DAY 2013

EVENTS TAKE PLACE IN 196 NATIONS AROUND THE WORLD

Organised by the **United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)** and the **Thelonious Monk Institute of Jazz**, the second annual **International Jazz Day** was celebrated in **Istanbul** on **30 April** in collaboration with the **Republic of Turkey** and **Istanbul Jazz Festival** as the host city partner. In addition to the events taking place all around the city throughout the day and the gala concert at the **Hagia Irene Museum** featuring artists from across the globe, thousands of events in **196 countries** in every region and continent of the world celebrated International Jazz Day.

The International Jazz Day Gala Concert, realised with the contributions of the main sponsors **Akbank** and **Garanti Bank** as well as **Jaeger-LeCoultre** and **Microsoft**, at the **Hagia Irene Museum** on **30 April** was viewed live by millions around the world. The jazz lovers in Istanbul watched the concert live on big screens in **Caddebostan** and **Tepebaşı** with the support of **Vodafone** as the webcast sponsor and **Arçelik** as the technological equipment sponsor.

The International Jazz Day Gala Concert started with the opening speeches of UNESCO Goodwill Ambassador **Herbie Hancock**, UNESCO Director-General **Irina Bokova** and Turkey's Minister of Culture and Tourism, **Ömer Çelik**. **Herbie Hancock** said, *"Using jazz as a tool, I have faith that the music—either through playing an instrument, learning about its rich cultural history, or listening to the millions of recordings made over the past century— will demonstrate that barriers can be broken, unity can be achieved, new forms of expression can be created, and a dialogue between cultures can begin. From my decades long career as a jazz musician, I know first hand that inventive ideas can achieve the impossible, transform humanity, and make productive changes at the grass roots level."* **Irina Bokova**, Director General of UNESCO. *"This music draws strength from a rich mix of peoples and cultures, and it is woven today into the fabric of every society, played across the world, enjoyed everywhere."*

The concert featured pianists **Herbie Hancock**, **John Beasley** (Musical Director), **George Duke**, **Robert Glasper**, **Ramsey Lewis**, **Keiko Matsui** and **Eddie Palmieri**; vocalists **Ruben Blades**, **Al Jarreau**, **Milton Nascimento**, **Dianne Reeves**, **Esperanza Spalding** (who also played bass) and **Joss Stone**; trumpeters **Terence Blanchard**, **Hugh Masekela** and **İmer Demirer**; bassists **James Genus**, **Marcus Miller** and **Ben Williams**; drummers **Terri Lyne Carrington** and **Vinnie Colaiuta**; guitarists **Bilal Karaman**, **John McLaughlin**, **Lee Ritenour** and **Joe Louis Walker**; saxophonists **Dale Barlow**, **Igor Butman**, **Branford Marsalis**, **Wayne Shorter** and **Liu Yuan**; clarinetists **Anat Cohen** and **Hüsnü Şenlendirici**; violinist **Jean-Luc Ponty**; **Pedrito Martinez** on percussion; tabla master **Zakir Hussain**; trombonist **Alevtina Polyakova**; and special guest **Martin Luther King III** and comedian **Cem Yılmaz**.

International Jazz Day brings together communities, schools and groups from across the globe to celebrate jazz, learn about its roots and highlight its important role as a form of communication that transcends differences. In partnership with the **Republic of Turkey**, the all-star evening concert was held at Istanbul's famed **Hagia Irene**. Dating back to the 4th century, the Hagia Irene, located in the outer courtyard of the Topkapi Palace – a UNESCO World Heritage Site – is regarded as an international treasure for music lovers because of its brilliant atmosphere and enchanting acoustics. In addition to being streamed live worldwide at www.jazzday.com and via the **UNESCO**, **United Nations**, **U.S. State Department** and **Thelonious Monk Institute of Jazz websites**, the concert was also taped for future broadcast on public television stations around the world.

As the **Global Host City for International Jazz Day 2013**, **Istanbul** also featured **concerts**, **lectures**, **round tables**, **workshops**, and **Q&A sessions** with high-profile educators and musicians throughout the city. All of

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these daytime programs were **free** and **open to the public** with **panel discussions** focusing on “**Jazz and Freedom**,” “**Jazz and Women**” and “**Jazz Festivals and the Art of Promoting Jazz**.” Lectures included “**The History of Jazz**” and “**Dave Brubeck and Diplomacy**.”

In addition to the events taking place in this year’s host city, thousands of events in 196 countries in every region and continent of the world and all 50 of the United States celebrated International Jazz Day. Kigali, Rwanda presented a “Kigali Jazz 4 Peace” event at the MTN Center Building in Nyarutarama with a film screening and concerts. In Brazil, the city of Sao Paulo celebrated by organizing a special show at Jazznos Fundos to mark the day, with a quartet of great Brazilian musicians. In Italy, the Alexander Platz Jazz Club in Rome presented a concert featuring local artists; and in Malaysia, the Penang Philharmonic Jazz Section marked International Jazz Day with “A Celebration of Jazz 2013” featuring performances by five groups, each with its own unique style and brand of music at Gurney Paragon in Penang.

International Jazz Day was adopted by UNESCO Member States on the initiative of UNESCO Goodwill Ambassador **Herbie Hancock**, in order to encourage and highlight jazz’s unique power for advancing intercultural dialogue and understanding across the world. International Jazz Day is recognized on the official calendars of UNESCO and the United Nations.

The Thelonious Monk Institute of Jazz is working with UNESCO and its Member States, national commissions, UNESCO networks, UNESCO Associated Schools, universities and institutes, public radio, public television and NGOs, as well as jazz clubs, hotels, and restaurants to organize and promote International Jazz Day events worldwide every year. Libraries, schools, performing arts centers, artists and arts organizations of all disciplines throughout the world are being encouraged to celebrate the day through education programs, presentations, concerts and other jazz-focused activities.

For more information about International Jazz Day:

caz.iksv.org/en/jazzday & www.unesco.org/new/en/jazz-day and jazzday.com

To follow International Jazz Day on social media:

twitter.com/IntlJazzDay and facebook.com/intljazzday

For hi-resolution images of International Jazz Day:

<http://www.iksvphoto.com/folder/159d70>

For videos from International Jazz Day:

<https://files.secureserver.net/3fEgmwxDbk56E3>

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