

## PRESS RELEASE

The Healdsburg Jazz Festival, one of Northern California's premier cultural events, celebrates its ten-year anniversary by presenting an all-star lineup of world-class musicians performing in intimate wine country venues this June.

Performers, including artists new to the festival and returning alumni, range from Fred Hersch to Bobby Hutcherson, from Eddie Palmieri to Charlie Haden, from Pete Escovedo to Zakir Hussain and much more.

"Every year we try to make the jazz festival better, but this will definitely be our biggest and best yet," said Jessica Felix, founder and Artistic Director for the festival.

"I am really excited about the outstanding lineup for this year and to once again bring a diverse and accomplished group of musicians to Healdsburg.

The jazz festival kicks off on Friday, May 30, with the Fred Hersch Trio and special guest Kurt Elling playing at the beautiful Jackson Theater, located a few minutes south of Healdsburg. The festival stays at the Jackson Theater the next evening for a concert featuring a beloved and internationally-acclaimed saxophonist (name withheld until April 1 due to contractual obligations).

As the festival progresses, it will traverse the jazz spectrum. Special event highlights include: Latin Jazz on the Green, an outdoor afternoon with the Eddie Palmieri and Pete Escovedo bands; Jazz Night at the Movies, with rare archival films from jazz film historian Mark Cantor; and Come Sunday, a Sunday morning performance of spirituals and sacred jazz music, with mezzo-soprano Ruth Naomi Floyd, a world-renowned vocalist who interprets traditional spirituals with impeccable jazz chops.

"The concerts this year will be phenomenal," said Felix, "with performances that include an evening with Charlie Haden, Kenny Barron and Joshua Redman, "The Music of Eric Dolphy" featuring Bennie Maupin and James Newton, the Cedar Walton Trio, the Bobby Hutcherson Quartet, the Julian Lage Trio, the John Heard Trio, and an All-Star Alumni Band on the last day at Rodney Strong Vineyards, featuring many of the great players from 10 years of the festival. They'll all be coming on stage for a grand finale to help us close out the festival in grand style."

Veteran jazz fans and newcomers to the genre will find plenty to appreciate at the Healdsburg Jazz Festival, with intimate performances held in theaters, hotel lobbies, cafés, restaurants, wineries, ballparks, and the town square.

Circe Sher, a jazz festival board member and the marketing director for Hotel Healdsburg, a festival sponsor, is enthusiastic about how the festival fits with the Healdsburg community. "The Healdsburg Jazz Festival combines great classic jazz with beautiful venues and the charm of Healdsburg. Both visitors and locals pack the venues and the town is abuzz with music. It's a great time to be in Healdsburg."

The festival has a dedicated corps of volunteers. "I'm so grateful to the community of Healdsburg for making this festival work," said Felix. "People open their homes to musicians, restaurants help keep them fed, and local businesses support us as well."

**PRESS RELEASE PAGE 2**

Lynn Woznicki, the former CEO of the Healdsburg Chamber of Commerce, was an early supporter of the festival. “It’s proven to be a tremendous gift to our community,” said Woznicki. “Driven by a group of passionate volunteers, it’s been rewarding to watch their dreams of a world-class festival come true.”

The Healdsburg Jazz Festival mission includes more than just great performances. According to Felix, “the real heart of the festival is our Jazz Education Program. The program this year is the biggest ever, with performing and learning opportunities for every child in our community.”

From classes in dance and drumming for the youngest, to hands-on tutoring for high school jazz players, the festival brings professional musicians and educators into area classrooms throughout the spring. “Our festival is about so much more than ticket sales,” said Felix. “We are as dedicated to teaching young musicians to play and to building an audience of jazz aficionados, as we are to filling seats at the performances. Our experience with this festival is that it has helped build a stronger community as much as it has fostered appreciation for this great American art form.”

The Healdsburg Jazz Festival will sponsor several free concerts, including in one in the Healdsburg Plaza on Tuesday, June 3, as part of the Tuesday Picnic and Concert Series. Other events range in price from \$10 to \$60, including a variety of events for students and their families. For ticket and venue information, call 707-433-4644 or visit [www.healdsburgjazzfestival.org](http://www.healdsburgjazzfestival.org).

Note to editors — for more information, see our Backgrounder, which provides more information about the festival’s history and context, our Heart of the Festival release, which discusses the festival’s education program, and our Founder’s Notes release, which expands on the background of festival founder Jessica Felix. For more information, or to speak to Healdsburg Jazz Festival Founder and Artistic Director Jessica Felix, call 707-433-4633 or email her at [jessicafelix@ap.net](mailto:jessicafelix@ap.net).