



healdsburgjazzfestival.org

P.O. BOX 266
Healdsburg, CA 95448

ph: 707.433.4633
fx: 707.431.8371

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The Triumph of Jazz: Resurrection of the Healdsburg Jazz Festival

After a harrowing “near death” experience, the Healdsburg Jazz Festival returns bigger and better than ever this coming **June 3-12, 2011**, with a glittering roster of jazz giants on the bill. This year the musicians themselves are personally committed to reviving the singular institution of Healdsburg’s jazz festival by donating their time and talent to assure the event’s continued success.

Running from June 3-12 at venues around the picturesque Wine Country town, the **13th Annual Healdsburg Jazz Festival** showcases a sensational roster of veteran jazz masters including **Charles Lloyd, Zakir Hussain, Bobby Hutcherson, Charlie Haden, Fred Hersch, George Cables, Billy Hart, Geri Allen, Bobby Watson, Denny Zeitlin, John Santos and Arturo Sandoval.**

The entire festival is designed as an unprecedented 10-day benefit for the non-profit, mostly volunteer organization that produces the event. The internationally recognized Healdsburg Jazz Festival has long distinguished itself with a single-minded focus on presenting the world’s greatest jazz musicians. At a time when hundreds of arts organizations across the nation have been forced to downsize or disband due to the economic crisis, Healdsburg’s revival offers an inspirational object lesson in the way that artists, music lovers and a close-knit community can turn the tide against despair.

With the announcement in July last year that HJF’s board of directors had cancelled the 2011 festival and dismissed the festival’s founder and artistic director, **Jessica Felix**, musicians and festival fans immediately sprang into action. The story quickly went national, and an outpouring of support for Felix and the festival led to a remarkable reversal, with the entire board resigning after reinstating Felix to her original position.

“The most amazing and heartening part of the whole experience was the way the community rallied to support this festival,” says Felix. “People so appreciate that we bring the most eloquent and soulful jazz artists in the world to Healdsburg. But none of this could have happened without the love and support of the musicians, who have stepped up to save a festival they really believe in.”

The festival opens on **Friday June 3** with a dazzling triple bill featuring passionately lyrical pianist **Fred Hersch**, 23-year-old guitar star (and local-boy-made-good) **Julian Lage**, and gifted pianist **Noam Lemish**.

On **Saturday, June 4**, in Healdsburg’s Rec Park, **One Voice: An Afternoon of Vocal Jazz** highlights Northern California’s sensational array of vocal talent with **Madeline Eastman, Linda Tillery, Kenny Washington, Bobbe Norris, Jackie Ryan, Ed Reed, Rhonda Benin** and others. The rhythm sections feature a mix of New York and Bay Area heavyweights, such as pianists **George Cables, Larry Dunlap, Tammy Hall** and drum maestro **Billy Hart**.

On **Sunday, June 5** the all-star **Latin Jazz on the Green** program brings an irresistible tropical vibe to Healdsburg’s Rec Park, including with the **John Santos Sextet** with percussion great **Pete Escovedo** and Cuban trumpet star **Arturo Sandoval**.

The Latin Jazz mini-festival also features the NEA-funded Latin Jazz All-Stars; the fluent Israeli guitarist **Roni Ben-Hur** and bassist **Nilson Matta's** Trio with drummer **Billy Hart**; and the Brazilian Jazz All Stars with guitarists **Romero Lubambo, Ricardo Peixoto** and **Brian Moran**, vocalists **Claudia Villela** and **Pamela Driggs**, reed expert **Harvey Wainapel**, percussionist **Ami Molinelli** and others.

Thursday, June 9 is Motéma Music Night, an evening dedicated to artists recording for the respected and talent-laden recording label Motéma. The triple bill features revered pianist **Geri Allen**, whose ravishing solo session "Flying Toward the Sound" earned numerous mentions one of 2010's best releases; charismatic drummer **Babatunde Lea's Tribute to Leon Thomas** with keyboard great **Patrice Rushen** and powerhouse vocalist **Dwight Trible**; and pianist **Marc Cary's** protean trio.

Friday, June 10 offers a rare opportunity to experience **Sangam**, the spiritually charged communion between visionary tenor saxophonist/flutist **Charles Lloyd**, Indian tabla legend **Zakir Hussain**, and drummer extraordinaire **Eric Harland**. Documented on a live 2006 recording for ECM, the trio has attained luminous new heights whenever the opportunity arises to rejoin forces.

Saturday, June 11 brings together a stunning array of jazz explorers, starting with a solo set by piano savant **Denny Zeitlin**. Well-traveled bassist **John Heard** follows with drummer Lorca Hart's trio, and the evening concludes with pianist **George Cables' All Stars** featuring vibes great **Bobby Hutcherson**, altoist **Bobby Watson**, saxophonist **Craig Handy**, trumpeter **David Weiss**, bassist **Ray Drummond** and drummer **Victor Lewis**.

Sunday, June 12 starts with a morning of spirituals delivered by the soul-drenched singer **Ruth Naomi Floyd**, reed expert **Bennie Maupin** and conductor **James Newton** with a generous helping of the Healdsburg Jazz Festival All-Stars.

On **Sunday night, June 12** the festival concludes with "An Evening with Charlie Haden," which includes a screening Reto Caduff's acclaimed feature-length documentary on Haden, *Rambling Boy*, an intimate conversation with the legendary bassist, and some musical interludes with Haden and pianist **Alan Broadbent**.

At a time when too many events call themselves jazz festival while paying scant attention to the artists who represent the music at its most profound, Healdsburg stands out as a beacon of authenticity. Instead of proving to be unlucky, the 13th Annual Healdsburg Jazz Festival has turned into an inspirational story about how a belief in the music's power to bring people together turned out to be prophetic.

For more details about the 2010 controversy including articles, over 70 postings, and other materials, please see the sidebar "Jazz Triumphs in 2010" on our website, www.healdsburgjazzfestival.org

*For complete event details, visit healdsburgjazzfestival.org
P.O. Box 266 | Healdsburg, CA 95448 | 707-433-4644*