



JAZZ WINNIPEG ANNOUNCES HEADLINING PERFORMERS AND VENUES FOR THE 2023 TD WINNIPEG INTERNATIONAL JAZZ FESTIVAL

The TD Winnipeg International Jazz Festival brings internationally acclaimed artists to the Royal Manitoba Theatre Centre, rounding out the fest's 2023 headline artist line-up

(April 12, 2023 - Winnipeg, MB) Jazz Winnipeg is thrilled to unveil further programming for the 2023 TD Winnipeg International Jazz Festival, happening June 14-24, 2023.

Headlining artists include prolific trumpet phenom (and Beyoncé collaborator) **Keyon Harrold** with his **Jazz and the Birth of Hip Hop** show with special guests **MC Black Milk**, **Chris “Daddy” Dave**, and **Georgia Anne Muldrow**. Local favourite hip hop group **Super Duty Tough Work** opens that show, happening June 14 at returning TD Winnipeg International Jazz Festival venue the **Royal Manitoba Theatre Centre John Hirsch Mainstage**.

Trending Canadian pop stars and 2023 JUNO winners **Rêve** with **Preston Pablo** play the Royal MTC John Hirsch Mainstage on June 15, while jazz piano superstar **Emmet Cohen** and the legacy Afrofuturist space jazz of the **Sun Ra Arkestra** are both at the **Royal Manitoba Theatre Centre Tom Hendry Warehouse** on June 16 and June 20, respectively.

These newly-announced artists join previously-announced concerts from five-time GRAMMY winner **Angélique Kidjo** (June 17) and the old-meets-new stylings of **Postmodern Jukebox** (June 18), both taking place at the Burton Cummings Theatre. Opening for Kidjo is Winnipeg-based singer **Kelly Bado** with her globally-influenced soul and pop music.

New festival venue the **Fort Garry Hotel** will host the fest's new **Spirit of '73 concert series**, celebrating the most influential and acclaimed albums of 50 years ago with Winnipeg's favourite local musicians. 1973 is widely recognized by music historians and critics as a landmark year for the release of influential popular LPs. Psych rockers **Apollo Suns** will play Pink Floyd's *Dark Side of the Moon*, and Carter Graham, Keisha Booker, and Sheena Rattai-led classic soul- and pop-influenced group **Vox Populi** will play Stevie Wonder's *Innervisions*. Two additional Spirit of '73 shows will be announced May 3. Tickets will be available May 5.

“With the celebration of jazz music’s hip hop connections and evolution with Keyon Harrold, hottest pop stars in Canada Rêve and Preston Pablo, world-class pure jazz of the Emmet Cohen Trio, and the Sun Ra Arkestra’s continuation of Afrofuturism’s legacy, there’s a focus on music’s past, present, and future in this year’s artistic programming,” said Jazz Winnipeg’s Board Vice-Chair, Jared McKetiak.

“Providing opportunity for local artists is also part of our mandate and we’re thrilled that Kelly Bado and Super Duty Tough Work will share the stage with this year’s headliners, bringing past, present, and future together again. Our new Spirit of ‘73 series underlines that theme, bringing the most artistically creative albums of 1973 to life in 2023 with concerts from Winnipeg’s favourite performers at the Fort Garry Hotel. This year at the TD Winnipeg International Jazz Festival, we see artistic evolution and innovation come to life,” said Zachary Rushing, Jazz Winnipeg’s programs manager.

In addition to programming at the Royal Manitoba Theatre Centre, the Fort Garry Hotel, and the Burton Cummings Theatre, the next wave of programming featuring more than 80 Canadian and local performers across Club Series concerts at the Royal Albert Arms, the Pyramid Cabaret, and Cinematheque, as well as free programming in Old Market Square at the Bijou Patio (June 14-18) and Cube (June 21-24) stages, will be announced May 3, 2023.

TD Winnipeg International Jazz Festival tickets for venue Royal Manitoba Theatre Centre go on sale Friday, April 14 at 10:00AM on Showpass.

Tickets for Club Series and Spirit of ‘73 Series concerts go on sale Friday, May 5 on Showpass.

Tickets for [Postmodern Jukebox](#) and [Angélique Kidjo with Kelly Bado](#) at the Burton Cummings Theatre are available now on Ticketmaster.

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About Jazz Winnipeg

[Jazz Winnipeg](#) is a charitable, non-profit organization promoting the art of jazz through concert presentations and community engagement including the annual TD Winnipeg International Jazz Festival. Donations are tax deductible and gratefully accepted through our website at [Jazz Winnipeg](#) or at [CanadaHelps](#).

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BACKGROUNDER

2023 TD WINNIPEG INTERNATIONAL JAZZ FESTIVAL HEADLINING ARTISTS

Keyon Harrold: Jazz and the Birth of Hip Hop with special guests MC Black Milk, Chris “Daddy” Dave and Georgia Anne Muldrow

Keyon Harrold was born and raised in Ferguson, MO, the St. Louis suburb that tore into America's national consciousness in 2014 with the police shooting of Michael Brown and the bitter protests and riots that followed. While Ferguson looms large in Harrold's album *The Mugician*, it examines our troubled times through a far wider lens than any one tragedy. Sweeping and cinematic, the music draws on elements of jazz, classical, rock, blues, and hip hop to create something uniquely modern, unmistakably American. Guests including Pharoahe Monch, Gary Clark, Jr., Big K.R.I.T., Guy Torry, Georgia Anne Muldrow and Robert Glasper add to the record's eclectic nature, but it ultimately triumphs as a unified, cohesive whole both because of Harrold's virtuosic skill as a trumpeter and songwriter and because of his relentlessly optimistic belief in brighter days to come.

Harrold grew up one of 16 children in a family that prioritized music and community across generations. His grandfather was a police officer who retired from the force to found a drum and bugle corps for local youth, both of his parents were pastors, and nearly all of his siblings sing and perform music today. Culture shock hit Harrold hard at 18, when he left Ferguson for New York City to enrol in The New School. In New York, he landed his first major gig with Common, an experience which he says broadened his musical horizons beyond jazz to include funk, Afrobeat, R&B, and hip hop. Soon he was performing with stars like Snoop Dogg, Jay Z, Beyonce, Rihanna, Eminem, Maxwell, and Anthony Hamilton.

In 2009, he released his solo debut, *Introducing Keyon Harrold*, and then won wide acclaim for his trumpet performances in Don Cheadle's Miles Davis biopic *Miles Ahead*. *The Mugician* is a portmanteau of “musician” and “magician”, a nod to a nickname Cheadle bestowed upon the young virtuoso, and it's an apt descriptor for a record that pushes beyond the traditional boundaries of jazz trumpet. In fact, the album doesn't even begin with trumpet, but rather with a track called ‘Voicemail,’ which features an inspirational message from Harrold's mother set to a stirring, orchestral soundscape. Entirely unedited, her words lay the groundwork for an album that celebrates the importance of family (ten of Keyon's siblings appear on the record) and the absolute necessity of optimism in the face of darkness and doubt. These days, Harrold is a parent himself, and he pays tribute to his son with a pair of tracks on the album, “Lullaby” and “Bubba Rides Again.” Issues of identity and equality percolate throughout the record, sometimes subtly beneath the surface, sometimes more pointedly, as in “Circus Show.” However, the album's most powerful moments come with the one-two punch of “MB Lament” and “When Will It Stop,” songs written in the wake of Michael Brown's death and the senseless killings of so many others like him.

It's a monumental task, one that calls for tremendous empathy and sensitivity. To give voice to the silenced requires more than just talent and ambition; it requires faith, imagination, strength, and determination. Above all, it requires perspective. Fortunately, that is what Keyon Harrold brings most of all.

Rêve

Montréal-born, Toronto-based artist Rêve has flourished and cemented herself as one of this generation's most promising dance-pop singer-songwriters. Since making her label debut in 2021 with Universal Music Canada and Astralwerks, Rêve has amassed over 110 million combined global streams across a number of original singles, from her debut track “Still Dancing” to the irresistible “SKIN 2 SKIN,” the flirtatious “Tongue,” and more. With an already bustling catalogue of hits, her debut saw her gain a #1 US

Dance radio hit with "Whitney," along with her Canadian chart-topping track "CTRL + ALT + DEL" which went Platinum in under eight months since its release, was featured on Canada's Drag Race, garnered a SOCAN Dance Music Award in 2022 and a Dance Recording of the Year at the 2023 JUNOs. Along the way, Rêve has also received nominations at the 2023 JUNO Awards for Breakthrough Artist of the Year and TikTok Juno Fan Choice. Popularity and critical praise continue to grow for Rêve with features and extended versions of her original tracks from artists like ESSEL, BILLEN TED, Slater Manzo, Lee Vent, Kito, KALM, Lemon, Ceréna, Sydney Blu, ESSEL and Emily Nash. Along with features on tracks like Robin M's "Through The Night," COMANAVAGO's "Meat," Jonasu's "All Night & Every Day," Merk & Kremont's "U&U," and her co-signers, multi-Platinum producer-songwriters Banx & Ranx's "Headphones," which has seen praise from such outlets as Dancing Astronaut and Complex, alongside maintaining Canadian radio chart domination.

With a sonic prowess of playful, pop, and R&B-influenced dance music that draws inspiration from the heydays of 90s sophisticated Euro sound, Rêve's artistry is meant to inspire, empower, and shed light on the importance of embracing yourself and the world around you. Coupled with honest storytelling, hooking melodies, and innovative sonic tones, Rêve's alluring take on dance-pop artistry continues to captivate audiences as she cements herself as one of this generation's most promising artists.

Preston Pablo

Preston Pablo channels a fresh perspective on R&B and pop through his eloquent songwriting. Preston signed to 31 East/Universal Music Canada in 2021 as he honed what he describes as a "modern vintage" style. "It's a blend of pop and R&B with a different twist, but I'm keeping all of the doors open," he states. "My favourite way to write songs is with piano or guitar. It starts from the classic side with instruments and evolves from there." After racking up nearly 20 million streams independently, he draws a big sound out of small-town roots on singles such as "Don't Break (My Soul)", "Love You Bad", "AY AY AY" and his biggest hit, "Flowers Need Rain" with Banx & Ranx. Landing the #1 spot on the Shazam Chart in Canada, achieving platinum status, and reaching a Top 5 spot at Top 40 radio, "Flowers Need Rain" showcases Preston's further emergence in popular music.

Emmet Cohen Trio

Multifaceted American jazz pianist and composer Emmet Cohen has emerged as one of his generation's pivotal figures in music and the related arts. A recognized prodigy, Cohen began Suzuki method piano instruction at age three, and his playing quickly became a mature melding of musicality, technique, and concept. *Downbeat* observed that his "nimble touch, measured stride and warm harmonic vocabulary indicate he's above any convoluted technical showmanship."

In the same spirit, Cohen himself has noted that playing jazz is "about communicating the deepest levels of humanity and individuality; it's essentially about *connections*," both among musicians and with audiences. He leads his namesake ensemble, the "Emmet Cohen Trio," is a vibrant solo performer, and is in constant demand as a sideman. Possessing a fluid technique, an innovative tonal palette, and an extensive repertoire, Cohen plays with the command of a seasoned veteran and the passion of an artist fully devoted to his medium.

Cohen is committed to the intergenerational transfer of artistic knowledge, history, and traditions. His signature professional undertaking is the Masters Legacy Series, a celebratory set of recordings and interviews honoring legendary jazz musicians. He serves as both producer and pianist for each album in the series. The goal of this landmark, ongoing project is to provide musicians of multiple generations a forum to transfer the unwritten folklore that is America's unique musical idiom. Cohen has observed that

playing jazz "is enriched immeasurably by connecting and studying with jazz masters, forging backward to the very creation of the art form." Volume one of the "Masters Legacy Series" features drummer Jimmy Cobb, and volume two spotlights bassist Ron Carter. Future "Masters Legacy Series" releases will include Cohen's recordings with Benny Golson, Tootie Heath, and George Coleman.

Cohen's exacting keyboard artistry has garnered numerous accolades from the international jazz community. He placed first in both the American Jazz Pianists competition (2014) and the Phillips Piano Competition at the University of West Florida (2011). He was a finalist in the prestigious American Pianists Association's Cole Porter Fellowship (2015, 2011) and the Thelonious Monk International Piano Competition (2011). Cohen has appeared in world-renowned jazz events, including the Newport, Monterey, North Sea, Bern, Edinburgh, Detroit, and Jerusalem jazz festivals, as well as the New Orleans Jazz and Heritage Festival and the 2014 Sochi Winter Olympics in Russia. He has also performed at the Village Vanguard, the Blue Note, Dizzy's Club Coca-Cola, Birdland, Jazz Standard, London's Ronnie Scott's, Jazzhaus Montmartre in Copenhagen, Lincoln Center's Rose Hall, the Cotton Club in Tokyo, and the Kennedy Center, and was received in the Oval Office by President Obama. He is currently Hammond B-3 organist-in-residence at Harlem's SMOKE jazz club.

Besides leading the Emmet Cohen Trio, Cohen has appeared regularly with Ron Carter, Benny Golson, Jimmy Cobb, George Coleman, Jimmy Heath, Tootie Heath, Houston Person, Kurt Elling, Billy Hart, and Brian Lynch, among others. Cohen is also a member of Christian McBride's trio "Tip City," the "Herlin Riley Quartet," and the "Ali Jackson Trio," and serves as pianist and music director for jazz vocalist and television personality Lea DeLaria. His recordings include "Masters Legacy Series featuring Ron Carter" (2018); "Masters Legacy Series featuring Jimmy Cobb" (2017); "New Directions" (2016) with Herlin Riley; "Questioned Answer" (2014), co-produced with Brian Lynch; "Infinity" (2013), featuring his Italian Trio; and his acclaimed debut CD "In the Element" (2011), with bassist Joe Sanders and drummer Rodney Green.

Sun Ra Arkestra

Sun Ra founded the Sun Ra Arkestra in Chicago in 1955. He was among the earliest pioneers of the synthesizer and the free jazz revolution of the 1960s. Sun Ra sent a strong spiritual and musical message to his musicians and they are devoted to it. When he added more and more members they went from band to big band to ARKESTRA.

The Sun Ra Arkestra are known for their live performances that combine big-band swing, space-age jazz, singing, dancing, chanting, bright colors and Afro-pageantry. The Arkestra has been at the forefront of Afro-futurism since their inception.

Maestro Marshall Allen, the avant-garde alto saxophonist, who is 98 years young, joined the Arkestra in 1960. He has been directing the Arkestra since 1995. Marshall continues to compose and record with the Arkestra. He performs live on stage with them when they play within driving distance of his home in Philadelphia. Due to an inner ear issue, Marshall is not able to fly to shows with the Arkestra.

The Arkestra's 2020 album "Swirling" was nominated for a Grammy Award for best big band jazz ensemble recording. The Arkestra continue to travel the globe on their Inter-Galactic tour. Recent highlights include the Kennedy Center with Solange, the Berlin Opera House and New York City shows at Radio City Music Hall and a Christmas night benefit with Yo La Tengo.

Space is the Place!