



JAZZ WINNIPEG ANNOUNCES HEADLINING PERFORMERS FOR THE 2024 TD WINNIPEG INTERNATIONAL JAZZ FESTIVAL

*The TD Winnipeg International Jazz Festival invites community to Groove Together
with headliners Preservation Hall Jazz Band and Veronica Swift*

(March 19, 2024 - Winnipeg, MB) Jazz Winnipeg is celebrating its 35th year and is thrilled to unveil the first wave of programming for the 2024 TD Winnipeg International Jazz Festival, happening June 14-22, 2024 at various venues in downtown Winnipeg.

Headlining artists for this year's festival include New Orleans jazz mainstays **Preservation Hall Jazz Band** and multi-genre vocal phenom **Veronica Swift**, both playing the **Burton Cummings Theatre**. Local saxophonist and bandleader Sean Irvine's **Kind Neighbours** project opens for Preservation Hall Jazz Band on Thursday, June 20, while French-American singer **Laura Anglade** opens the Veronica Swift show on Saturday, June 22.

2024 sees the TD Winnipeg International Jazz Festival back at the beautiful Knox United Church in Winnipeg's Central Park neighbourhood, featuring the acclaimed Afrofuturist jazz of **Isaiah Collier + The Chosen Few**, opened by local sax and vocal up-and-comer **INGIA**, on Thursday, June 14. **Benny Green: Solo Piano**, the contemporary jazz master's latest show, is opened by local star guitarist **Jocelyn Gould** on Saturday, June 15. Plus, the guitar-led **Pasquale Grasso Trio**, whose innovative sounds have changed the guitar jazz landscape, play Knox United on Monday, June 17 with local openers **Free Time**.

"For our 35th year, we're going to continue to groove together in downtown Winnipeg with artists that represent the breadth of what's exciting in the contemporary jazz world," said Jazz Winnipeg's executive director Angela Heck. "From the genre experiments of singer Veronica Swift to the timeless New Orleans party that Preservation Hall Jazz Band bring to the stage, there's an old-meets-new current running through the music that these incredible artists bring to the 2024 TD Winnipeg International Jazz Festival stage."

TD Winnipeg International Jazz Festival tickets for **Preservation Jazz Hall Band** and **Veronica Swift** at the Burton Cummings Theatre **go on sale** to the public **Friday, March 22 at 10:00AM** on [Ticketmaster.ca](https://www.ticketmaster.ca).

Tickets for **Isaiah Collier + The Chosen Few**, **Benny Green: Solo Piano**, and the **Pasquale Grasso Trio** at Knox United Church **go on sale** to the public **Friday, March 22 at 10:00AM** on [Showpass](https://www.showpass.com).

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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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2024 TD WINNIPEG INTERNATIONAL JAZZ FESTIVAL HEADLINING ARTISTS BACKGROUND

ABOUT VERONICA SWIFT

Veronica Swift's new eponymously titled album, her third for Mack Avenue Records, is a masterful coming-out story. On her previous albums, *Confessions* (2019) and *This Bitter Earth* (2021), she ascended to the upper echelon of early 21st century jazz singers because of her virtuosic brilliance, interpretive ingenuity, bracing songwriting, and keen arrangements. Simply put, Swift is not only one of the most dazzling singers to emerge in her generation, she's one of the most versatile.

While her first two albums solidified her position in modern jazz, Veronica Swift shows that she's more than a jazz singer, exploring French and Italian opera, European classical music, bossa nova, blues, industrial rock, funk, and vaudeville. She pulls the feat off without the results sounding callow or pastiche. Swift's expansive artistic voice remains firmly intact regardless of genre. She describes this personal artistic statement on her new album as "transgenre."

ABOUT PRESERVATION HALL JAZZ BAND

At a moment when musical streams are crossing with unprecedented frequency, it's crucial to remember that throughout its history, New Orleans has been the point at which sounds and cultures from around the world converge, mingle, and resurface, transformed by the Crescent City's inimitable spirit and joie de vivre. Nowhere is that idea more vividly embodied than in the Preservation Hall Jazz Band, which has held the torch of New Orleans music aloft for more than 50 years, all the while carrying it enthusiastically forward as a reminder that the history they were founded to preserve is a vibrantly living history.

PHJB marches that tradition forward once again on *So It Is*, the septet's second release featuring all-new original music. The album redefines what New Orleans music means today by tapping into a sonic continuum that stretches back to the city's Afro-Cuban roots, through its common ancestry with the Afrobeat of Fela Kuti and the Fire Music of Pharoah Sanders and John Coltrane, and forward to cutting-edge artists with whom the PHJB have shared festival stages from Coachella to Newport,

including legends like Stevie Wonder, Elvis Costello, and the Grateful Dead and modern giants like My Morning Jacket, Arcade Fire, and the Black Keys.

ABOUT BENNY GREEN

At the age of 19, Benny Green moved to New York City to join legendary vocalist Betty Carter's band and never looked back. He would then assume the piano chair with some of jazz music's most important instrumental groups, including Art Blakey and the Jazz Messengers, Freddie Hubbard, and the Ray Brown Trio. With these artists he would receive an invaluable artistic education, learn to embody the art form, and master the music.

In 1988 he released his debut album as a leader, *Prelude*, on Criss Cross Records, which featured Terrence Blanchard, Javon Jackson, Peter Washington, and Tony Reedus. In 1990, he signed with Blue Note Records, for which he made seven recordings. These records featured some of the best musicians working in the idiom including Stanley Turrentine, Ron Carter, Ray Drummond, Christian McBride, Victor Lewis, Lewis Nash and Carl Allen. In 2000 he began recording with Telarc Records. These albums featured his collaboration with guitarist Russell Malone. Since 2013 he has released five albums on Sunnyside Records, and most recently has recorded a solo piano outing, *Solo*, which was released in 2023.

Taking inventory of the music industry and societal perception of jazz today, Benny Green states that he is committed to the truth of what has been given by people who lived and died for this music, playing honest jazz is precious to my human existence. "I've never felt a need or a calling to become one who's thought of or labeled as an innovator. Rather, I've strived since childhood to become an authentic jazz musician, and I seek to stand as a torchbearer for the continuum of straight-ahead jazz piano."

ABOUT ISAIAH COLLIER + THE CHOSEN FEW

Out of the vibrant Chicago scene, twenty-five year old multi-instrumentalist, composer, curator, activist, and educator Isaiah Collier is a musical virtuoso in the truest sense of the phrase. He began playing saxophone at age 11, and his intuitive proficiency earned him attention early on. Ever since, his band Isaiah Collier & The Chosen Few has been turning ears around the globe.

Isaiah Collier has made a name for himself most notably as a saxophone player, drummer and vocalist. In addition to leading his own project, he is a key part of Angel Bat Dawid's *Brotherhood* and has shared the stage with artists like Chance The Rapper, Lewis Nash, Waddada Leo Smith III, Junius Paul, Rene Marie and many more. He has notably performed at Dizzy's Club Coca Cola, The White House, The US Embassy and various jazz festivals and venues around the world.

Collier's sound and approach are drawn from the influence of master saxophonists such as John Coltrane, Roscoe Mitchell, Wayne Shorter, Ari Brown, and Gene Ammons. His playing is a dynamic flurry of metaphors, yet he can hold back when necessary. He plays his influences, which he describes as a "sonic time machine; you can't really put a time or destination on it." As far as where he plans to take his music, Collier says, "I reach backwards, and forwards simultaneously when creating art and what is ahead of me is the past."

ABOUT PASQUALE GRASSO

It was the kind of endorsement most rising guitarists can only dream of, and then some. In his interview for Vintage Guitar magazine's February 2016 cover story, Pat Metheny was asked to name some younger musicians who'd impressed him. "The best guitar player I've heard in maybe my entire life is floating

around now, Pasquale Grasso,” said the jazz guitar icon and NEA Jazz Master. “This guy is doing something so amazingly musical and so difficult.

As he’s done with many rising jazz stars, Metheny later invited Grasso over to his New York pad to jam and share some wisdom. He’s since become a generous presence in Grasso’s life, and his assessment of Grasso’s playing is, no surprise, spot-on. Born in Italy and now based in New York City, the 30-year-old guitarist has developed an astounding technique and concept informed not by jazz guitarists so much as by bebop pioneers like Powell, Charlie Parker and Dizzy Gillespie and the classical-guitar tradition. His new digital-only EP series, available beginning in June from Sony Masterworks, showcases Grasso in the solo-guitar format, where his intensive studies of both midcentury jazz and classical meld into a signature mastery that is, remarkably, at once unprecedented and evocative.