



San Jose Jazz Announces Official Cancellation of San Jose Jazz Summer Fest 2020 and SJZ Summer Jazz Camp 2020 Due to Coronavirus Pandemic

San Jose, Calif. – In response to the ongoing COVID-19 global pandemic, **San Jose Jazz** announces today the official cancellation of two of its signature programs, the 31st annual **San Jose Jazz Summer Fest 2020** (originally slated for August 2020) and its **Summer Jazz Camp** (originally slated for June 2020). The first priority of San Jose Jazz is the health, safety, and well-being of the artists, volunteers, teachers, students, production teams, and their beloved audiences who have generously supported the nonprofit's efforts for over 30 years to present one of the country's premier live music festivals. It is with great regret that San Jose Jazz cancels its annual summer festival. San Jose Jazz is steadfast in its commitment to carry on the great tradition of bringing renowned artists across the globe to downtown San Jose in August 2021.

San Jose Jazz's Executive Director Brendan Rawson comments, "Our mission is to bring community together through music. We are committed to evolving to new ways to accomplish that while also adapting our plans to return Summer Fest in 2021 stronger than ever."

San Jose Jazz staff members are working to reschedule select 2020 headlining acts to appear at next summer's festival. In the interim, the nonprofit is creating new strategies to help the South Bay community, musicians, and San Jose students during the unprecedented Coronavirus crisis.

"SJZ Summer Fest is one of our flagship live music events of the year," says **City of San José's Deputy City Manager and Director of Economic Development Kim Walesh**. "The city really benefits from the hard work of nonprofits such as San Jose Jazz. Once it's safe for our residents to be at large-scale gatherings, we want to see a full revitalization of the festival. The social benefits are obvious, and its substantial economic impact on small businesses throughout downtown San Jose will be vital as we return to normal life."

The Sobrato Organization's Chairman John M. Sobrato adds, "We have taken great pride in sponsoring the Main Stage at San Jose Jazz Summer Fest over the past several years and we're looking forward to continuing as Main Stage sponsor in 2021. The Summer Fest is one of the premier events held downtown and reflects what makes San Jose such a great city. We share the disappointment all patrons must feel that the uncertainty around COVID-19 has resulted in the cancellation of the 2020 Summer Fest."

San Jose Jazz's Artistic Director Bruce Labadie comments, "As popular as the San Jose Jazz Summer Fest is with the public, the importance to musicians is even broader. Artists from the world over reach out to perform. The local music community prepares special projects and relies on Summer Fest to reach and develop audiences. Young, emerging artists often receive their first opportunity to perform to large audiences. These lost opportunities are an unfortunate consequence of the cancellation."

In March 2020, San Jose Jazz launched its new weekly live streaming series, **Live From Home**, to help national and regional musicians adversely affected due to touring and live performances being canceled for months to come. **Live From Home** features artists performing a 30-minute concert from home that's live streamed via San Jose Jazz's digital platforms through Facebook Live and on its YouTube channel. A donation link is set up for each live stream with 100% of proceeds directly benefiting the artists. **Live From Home** presents an array of artists who have appeared at San Jose Jazz's festivals with upcoming performances by **Ben Williams** (April 16, 7pm PST), **Emmet Cohen Trio "Live From Emmet's Place"** (April 20, 4:30pm PST), **Kev Choice** (April 23, 7pm PST), and **Vijay Iyer** (April 27, 6pm PST).

San Jose Jazz's Executive Director Brendan Rawson says, "Now more than ever, musicians and fans are engaging in creative ways online. We want exceptional online music offerings to be accessible to anyone and from anywhere. **Live From Home** is our

first initiative, and we'll be launching others in the coming weeks and months. Our goal is to provide uplifting programming, and keep music alive amongst our community and beyond."

Along with other community partners, San Jose Jazz worked with the **Ella Fitzgerald Charitable Foundation** to contribute 2,600 children's books, as well as, coloring books and crayons to the **San Jose Ship Kit Project** (<https://www.sjshipkits.com>), spearheaded by festival partner **Urban Community**. The program is furnishing thousands of "Shelter in Place" kits targeted at working families including those in San Jose Jazz's Progressions program in the Franklin McKinley School District. Once Santa Clara County ordinances are lifted for the allowance of small community gatherings, San Jose Jazz will immediately re-launch its co-presented jazz jam/concert series **Session @ Five Points**, as well as again initiate live concerts with its mobile **Boombbox Truck** at local parks, schools, and university campuses. San Jose Jazz's bi-yearly **Mardi Gras Gala** will occur in February 2021.

For additional information regarding San Jose Jazz, please visit: sanjosejazz.org

About San Jose Jazz

Founded in 1986, San Jose Jazz is a public benefit corporation celebrating jazz as a dynamic, evolving art form and is producer of the annual San Jose Jazz Summer Fest and Winter Fest. With its singular music programming and innovative educational offerings, San Jose Jazz preserves the jazz tradition while actively supporting the next generation of performers within the genre and beyond. For more information, please visit sanjosejazz.org.

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