

Northwest Jazz Festival announces headliners

Historic Lewiston event, celebrating 20 years in 2022, returns after a two-year hiatus

After an unexpected two-year hiatus, the Northwest Jazz Festival returns to historic Lewiston Aug. 26-27. The event will highlight local, international and North American jazz artists including Sally Terrell, John di Martino, Stacey Kent, Corinne Mamma, Allison Au, Emmet Cohen and Joey DeFrancesco.

The two-day festival brings live music to Center Street with a select representation of the region's finest food and beverage vendors, local wineries, distilleries and breweries.

Jazz started to return last year, when local musicians were hired to perform in Lewiston. For 2022, the board of directors will celebrate the festival's 20-year anniversary – alongside presenting sponsor Northwest Bank and a collection of supportive businesses and organizations – with a lineup curated by music director Tony Zambito.

"The headliners this year are all incredibly shining stars in the jazz world who have demonstrated creative resourcefulness in overcoming the pandemic," Zambito said. "We are excited to have Grammy nominees and a Juno Award winner on the main stage this year."

"This year, we will celebrate the festival's 20th anniversary, and we could not be happier to welcome Joey DeFrancesco back to

the Niagara Falls region, where his father, Papa John, cemented the DeFrancesco legacy. In addition, we welcome back jazz vocalist Sally Terrell, who is also from this area and has a fabulous new album being released with jazz pianist extraordinaire John di Martino.

"We are excited to share that we will have a rare appearance and debut performance by Grammy nominee and jazz vocalist Stacy Kent. If anyone embodied perseverance during the pandemic, it was Emmet Cohen, and we are excited to have him and the trio perform. Having Juno Award winner the Allison Au Quartet from Canada is a chance to welcome our Canadian fans back to the festival. We are also delighted to have the opportunity to showcase an up-and-coming jazz vocalist, Corinne Mamma."

The main stage, at Center and Fourth streets, will welcome:



Joey DeFrancesco and Stacey Kent (Photos courtesy of the Northwest Jazz Festival)

•Friday, Aug. 26

✓ Jazz vocalist/pianist Sally Terrell with acclaimed jazz pianist/arranger John di Martino

✓ Grammy nominated jazz vocalist Stacey Kent in a regional debut performance

•Saturday, Aug. 27

✓ Acclaimed jazz vocalist Corinne Mamma

✓ Juno Award-winning the Allison Au Quartet

✓ 2019 American Pianist Award Winner and "Live from Emmet's Place" Emmet Cohen Trio

✓ 5-time Grammy nominee and Downbeat Critic's Poll No. 1 jazz organist Joey DeFrancesco

Organizers said, "Each year, the festival relies on the support of donors and sponsors

to remain the largest free jazz festival in the region, alongside hosting an annual fundraiser in the spring."

Board Chairwoman Carol Calato said, "We are grateful for the overwhelming support we have already received from the generosity of sponsors to make sure a 2022 event takes place. We are hard at work on the anniversary celebration and plan to give you another two days of spectacular entertainment featuring international stars, as well as some of our own local super talents. It is clear that everyone loves and misses the Jazz Festival and wants it to continue to be a success."

A Jazz Festival fundraiser will be held from 1-5 p.m. Sunday, May 1, at the Brickyard Brewing Company on Center Street. The event will feature music by the Stu Weissman Trio, Saranaide and the Buffalo Dolls. Tickets are available at the festival website at <https://www.lewistonjazz.com/>.

Organizers said, "Patrons are encouraged to purchase tickets even if they are unable to attend the jazz fundraiser event, to help contribute to the fundraising undertaken by the festival."

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