



## INTERNATIONAL JAZZ DAY

In November 2011, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) officially designated April 30 as International Jazz Day in order to highlight jazz and its diplomatic role of uniting people in all corners of the globe. Through this united effort, International Jazz Day is the one day each year that jazz is celebrated worldwide, bringing together people of all ages, backgrounds and nationalities in 196 countries.

International Jazz Day is chaired and led by Irina Bokova, UNESCO Director General, and legendary jazz pianist and composer Herbie Hancock, who serves as a UNESCO Ambassador for Intercultural Dialogue and Chairman of the Thelonious Monk Institute of Jazz. The Institute is the lead nonprofit organization charged with planning, promoting and producing this annual worldwide celebration.

In December 2012, the United Nations General Assembly officially welcomed the decision by the General Conference of UNESCO to proclaim April 30 as International Jazz Day. The United Nations called upon its Member States to participate actively in the celebration of International Jazz Day in order to develop and increase intercultural exchanges and understanding between cultures for the purpose of mutual comprehension and tolerance. **International Jazz Day, April 30, is recognized on the official calendars of both the United Nations and UNESCO.**

Jazz is a musical art form embraced all over the world. For more than a century, jazz has helped soothe and uplift the souls of millions of people in all corners of the globe. International Jazz Day is a means to highlight and leverage the unifying attributes of this music through celebratory events and programs worldwide on April 30 of each year.

International Jazz Day brings together communities, schools, artists, historians, academics, and jazz enthusiasts all over the world to celebrate and learn about jazz and its roots, future and impact; raise awareness of the need for intercultural dialogue and mutual understanding; and reinforce international cooperation and communication. Every year on April 30, this international art form is recognized for promoting peace, dialogue among cultures, diversity, and respect for human dignity, eradicating discrimination, fostering gender equality, and promoting individual expression.

According to Herbie Hancock, “On International Jazz Day, jazz is celebrated, studied, and performed around the world for 24 hours straight. Collaborations abound among jazz icons, scholars, composers, musicians, dancers, writers, and thinkers who embrace the beauty, spirit, and principles of jazz, freely sharing experiences and performances in our big cities and in our small towns, all across our seven continents. I can’t think of a better way to build peace and cultural understanding, the core principles of UNESCO.”

UNESCO Director General Irina Bokova has said, “On International Jazz Day, the world comes together in peace and harmony, to share a passion for music and to join forces for freedom and creativity. Jazz draws roots from a great mix of people and cultures – from Africa, Europe, and the Caribbean. Nurtured in the United States, it is now woven into the fabric of every society, played across the world, enjoyed everywhere. This diversity makes jazz a powerful force for dialogue and understanding. Jazz provided the soundtrack for past struggles for dignity and civil rights. It remains today a force for social transformation, because it tells a story of freedom that all people share.”



The educational dimension of International Jazz Day is what sets this particular day apart from the multitude of concerts and jazz festivals that take place every day around the world. International Jazz Day carries the unique mandate of utilizing and promoting the values of jazz for peace. The worldwide education programs promote and emphasize the importance of sharing the history of jazz, and reflecting upon the kind of mutual respect and democratic principles necessary for the music to thrive.

**Paris will serve as the International Jazz Day 2015 Global Host City. An All-Star Concert and a full day of jazz education programs will be presented across the city and at UNESCO's global headquarters in Paris as part of the high-profile events celebrating UNESCO's 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary.**

The past three International Jazz Day celebrations were enormous successes. **International Jazz Day live performances, education programs and media coverage reached more than 2.49 billion people in 2014 alone.** People all over the world joined forces to celebrate jazz as a universal force for peace, dialogue and unity. From Tuvalu and Finland to Peru and Somalia, spanning the globe in all directions, jazz brought together people regardless of borders, distance and differences to show their support for jazz and its beauty, its ethical dimensions, and its potential to galvanize support for freedom, democracy and mutual respect.

UNESCO and United Nations missions, U.S. embassies and government outposts around the world hosted special events to honor this revered musical art form. Additionally, UNESCO and the Thelonious Monk Institute promoted the celebration to universities, libraries, schools, community centers, performing arts venues and arts organizations of all disciplines around the world. These organizations marked the day through jazz concerts, workshops, seminars, roundtable discussions, book readings, public jam sessions, master classes, photo exhibitions, dance recitals, film and documentary screenings, theater presentations and spoken word performances.

In its inaugural year, International Jazz Day 2012 kicked off with a sunrise concert in New Orleans' Congo Square – the birthplace of jazz – and a sunset concert at the United Nations General Assembly Hall in New York with dozens of world-renowned musicians. Herbie Hancock's Congo Square performance with a group of the Institute's high school jazz musicians was part of a live simulcast that enabled students from Cape Town, Paris and Rio de Janeiro to join in the performance. This was broadcast live via CNN and *CBS This Morning*. Additionally, nations around the world presented education programs and performances.

In 2013, Istanbul, Turkey served as the International Jazz Day Global Host City, presenting more than 40 programs, including a daylong series of education programs led by prominent musicians and educators. More than 30 internationally acclaimed musicians performed in an All-Star Concert at Istanbul's historic Hagia Irene that was streamed live around the world via the United Nations, UNESCO, United States Department of State and Thelonious Monk Institute of Jazz. Additionally, the concert was seen live by more than 60,000 Istanbul residents who watched the performances on giant screens that were set up in two public squares spanning two continents as part of the Community Square Live Simulcast.

Osaka, Japan was the 2014 Global Host City and presented a full day of education programs, including master classes, lectures, panel discussions, jam sessions and film screenings at the Osaka School of Music. Five of the sessions were streamed live via [jazzday.com](http://jazzday.com) and the UNESCO website. The day culminated with an extraordinary All-Star Concert for more than 10,000 people at the historic Osaka Castle Park that was streamed live worldwide and taped for broadcast by public television stations around the world.



**International Jazz Day 2013 and 2014 were celebrated through thousands of programs in all 196 United Nations and UNESCO Member States on all seven continents.** In addition, the captain and crew of the International Space Station delivered a special message recognizing International Jazz Day 2014, and jazz programs took place at both McMurdo Station and Palmer Station in Antarctica. International Jazz Day continues to demonstrate that jazz defines cultural diplomacy and truly has no boundaries.

### **World-Renowned Artists**

Many of the world's most revered artists have participated in the International Jazz Day All-Star Global Concerts. Artists have included:

#### Vocalists

Tony Bennett Ruben Blades Dee Dee Bridgewater Roberta Gambarini Lalah Hathaway Al Jarreau Chaka Khan Angelique Kidjo Shankar Mahadevan Milton Nascimento Gregory Porter Dianne Reeves Oumou Sangaré Esperanza Spalding Joss Stone Dionne Warwick Stevie Wonder

#### Pianists

Toshiko Akiyoshi John Beasley Kris Bowers Robert Glasper Herbie Hancock Hiromi Lang Lang Ramsey Lewis Keiko Matsui Makoto Ozone Eddie Palmieri Danilo Pérez Tarek Yamani

#### Trumpeters

Terence Blanchard Roy Hargrove Takuya Kuroda Wynton Marsalis Hugh Masekela Claudio Roditi

#### Bassists

Richard Bona Ron Carter James Genus Christian McBride Marcus Miller Ben Williams

#### Drummers

Terri Lyne Carrington Vinnie Colaiuta Jack DeJohnette T.S. Monk

#### Guitarists

George Benson Jonathan Butler Robert Cray Chris Thomas King Earl Klugh Romero Lubambo John McLaughlin Lee Ritenour John Scofield Susan Tedeschi Derek Trucks Joe Louis Walker

#### Saxophonists

Dale Barlow Igor Butman Eli Degibri Kenny Garrett Jimmy Heath Joe Lovano Branford Marsalis Courtney Pine Wayne Shorter Lew Tabackin Liu Yuan

#### Clarinetists

Anat Cohen Husnu Senlendirici

#### Violinist

Jean-Luc Ponty

#### Percussionists

Candido Sheila E. Pete Escovedo Zakir Hussain Pedrito Martinez

#### Trombonists

Alevtina Polyakova Steve Turre