



Media Fact Sheet: For Use at Will

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HSL PROPERTIES TUCSON JAZZ FESTIVAL

- What:** The second annual HSL Properties Tucson Jazz Festival featuring 13 performances by local and national stars, including NEA Jazz Master Jimmy Heath and Grammy-Award Winning Snarky Puppy, and Poncho Sanchez.
- Why:** Attract new winter visitors and local residents to a destination festival featuring world-class jazz in historic downtown Tucson, last year creating \$1.1 million in economic impact.
- Who:** ***Presenter*** – Jazz in January, the non-profit created in 2014 to organize and present the Festival.
Title Sponsor – HSL Properties, a locally owned company founded in 1975, that acquires, owns, operates and develops properties in Arizona, California, Colorado, Georgia, New Mexico, and Texas.
- When:** Thursday, January 14 through Sunday, January 24, 2016.
- Where:** Downtown Tucson, primarily at the historic Fox and Rialto theaters; see schedule for specific events and venues.
- How:** Tickets available at Ticketmaster.com beginning Oct. 7, 2015 or call 520-428-4853.
- Schedule:** **Thursday, Jan. 14, Fox Tucson Theatre, 7 p.m.**
17 W. Congress St., Tucson, AZ
Tucson Jazz Institute Ellington Band with **Jimmy Heath**. Opening: Tribute to Erroll Garner's Concert by the Sea, with the **Kenny Werner** Trio.
Ticket prices: \$29, \$39, \$49
- Friday, Jan. 15, Rialto Theatre, 8 p.m.**
318 E. Congress St., Tucson, AZ
Grammy-winning instrumental fusion band **Snarky Puppy** with guitarist **Nir Felder**'s quartet opening.
Ticket prices: \$39, \$49

Saturday, Jan. 16, TCC Music Hall, 8 p.m.

Sunday, Jan. 17, TCC Music Hall, 2 p.m.

260 S. Church St., Tucson, AZ

Byron Stripling: Sounds of New Orleans Super Pops concert with the Tucson Symphony Orchestra.

Ticket prices: \$30, \$56, \$68, \$78

Sunday, Jan. 17, UA Centennial Hall, 7 p.m.

1020 E. University Blvd., University of Arizona, Tucson, AZ

Monterey Jazz Festival on Tour with Raul Midon, Nicholas Payton, Ravi Coltrane, Gerald Clayton, Joe Sanders and Justin Brown.

Ticket prices: \$32 and up

Sunday, Jan. 17, Club Congress, 7 & 10 p.m.

311 E. Congress St., Tucson, AZ

“Through the Badlands” CD release party with drummer **Arthur Vint & Associates** including bassist **Ian Stapp** and saxophonist **Brice Winston**.

Ticket prices: \$34, \$49

Monday, Jan. 18, 11 a.m. to 5 p.m.

FREE MLK Day Downtown Jazz Fiesta

Jazz on two stages, local Latin jazz bands and smaller jazz ensembles.

Community Food Bank donation tent; food trucks and beer and wine.

Fifth Avenue between Toole and Broadway.

Tuesday, Jan. 19, 8 p.m.

Festival on hiatus: Janet Jackson at the TCC Arena.

Wednesday, Jan. 20, Crowder Hall, 7 p.m.

1017 N. Olive St., University of Arizona, Tucson, AZ

Jon Weber “115 Years of Jazz Piano” at Crowder Hall; UA Jazz Ensemble, opening.

Ticket prices: \$24, \$29, \$49

Thursday, Jan. 21, Fox Tucson Theatre, 7 p.m.

17 W. Congress St., Tucson, AZ

Poncho Sanchez and his Latin Jazz Band with **La Voz de Tres**, led by Mike Eckroth, opening.

Ticket prices: \$29, \$39, \$49

Friday, Jan. 22, Fox Tucson Theatre, 8 p.m.

17 W. Congress St., Tucson, AZ

The **Rad Trads** with boogie woogie pianist **Arthur Mighiazza** opening.

Ticket prices: \$29, \$39, \$49

Saturday, Jan. 23, Rialto Theatre, 8 p.m.

318 E. Congress St., Tucson, AZ

Vocalist **Lizz Wright** with **Larry Redhouse Trio** opening.

Ticket prices: \$29, \$39, \$49

Sunday, Jan. 24, Rialto Theatre, 7 p.m.

318 E. Congress St., Tucson, AZ

New Orleans vocalist and trumpeter **Kermit Ruffins** and his Quintet with guitarist and vocalist **King Solomon Hicks** opening.

Ticket prices: \$34, \$49

Additional Facts:

Tucson Jazz Festival is the only major jazz festival in the country in January.

The inaugural 2015 festival attracted 10,000 people over 13 days – 28% of whom were from outside of the Tucson area,

The average daytime high temperature during last year’s festival was 71.5 degrees – the high temperature on the free 2015 MLK Day celebration was a near-record 76 degrees.

The guest of honor for the festival is National Endowment for the Arts Jazz Master and saxophonist Jimmy Heath who will perform with the Tucson Jazz Institute award-winning Ellington Band at the opening concert at the Fox on Jan. 14.

On the opening weekend, more than 100 jazz students from across the southwest will be in town for a High School Jazz Band Invitational

The festival will be promoting “Jazz in January” for the entire month beginning at midnight on Jan. 1, with “Rick Braun’s New Year’s Eve” at the JW Marriott Starr Pass Resort. The festival will also promote local jazz at restaurants and businesses, supported by a grant from Rio Nuevo, in the two weeks leading up to the festival kick-off.

Jazz in January Board of Directors: Honorary Chair: Mayor Jonathan Rothschild; Elliot Glicksman, President; Isaac Rothschild, Vice President; Yvonne Ervin, Secretary & Executive Director; Dan Coleman, Treasurer. Advisors: Jeff Haskell, Fletcher McCusker

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Headliner Bios in Alphabetical Order

Jimmy Heath, saxophonist, has long been recognized as a brilliant instrumentalist and a magnificent composer and arranger. Jimmy is the middle brother of the legendary Heath Brothers (Percy Heath, bass and Tootie Heath, drums), and is the father of Mtume. He has performed with nearly all the jazz greats of the last 50 years, from Howard McGhee, Dizzy Gillespie, and Miles Davis to Wynton Marsalis. One of Heath's earliest big bands (1947-8) in Philadelphia included John Coltrane, Benny Golson and Ray Bryant. During his career, Jimmy has performed on more than 100 record albums including seven with The Heath Brothers and 12 as a leader. He has written more than 125 compositions, many of which have become jazz standards and have been recorded by other artists including Art Farmer, Cannonball Adderley, Clark Terry, Chet Baker, Miles Davis, Ahmad Jamal, Ray Charles, Dizzy Gillespie and Dexter Gordon. Jimmy has also composed seven suites and two string quartets and he premiered his first symphonic work, "Three Ears," in 1988 at Queens College with Maurice Peress conducting. Having concluded 11 years as a professor at Queens College, he maintains an extensive performance schedule and continues to conduct workshops and clinics throughout the U.S., Europe and Canada.

Video: [The Voice of the saxophone](#)

Website: www.jimmyheath.com

Monterey Jazz Festival on Tour, The Monterey Jazz Festival, the longest continuously-running jazz festival in the world, presents its fourth national tour in 2016. Featuring critically-acclaimed, Grammy-winning jazz artists, the Monterey Jazz Festival all-star tour band features R&B and jazz vocalist Raul Midon, Nicolas Payton on trumpet; Ravi Coltrane on tenor and soprano saxophones; musical director Gerald Clayton on piano; Joe Sanders on bass; and Justin Brown on drums. World-renowned for its artistic excellence, sophisticated informality, and longstanding mission to create and support year-round jazz education and performance programs in local, regional, national, and international venues, Monterey Jazz Festival has

stayed true to expanding live performances of jazz around the country since 2008 by presenting national tours that have reached over 100,000 fans in 135 shows across the United States and Canada.

Website: www.montereyjazzfestival.org

The Rad Trads have a reputation as one of New York's most entertaining acts. They bring their love of the game to a diverse style of soulful American music, with influences from early jazz to New Orleans brass band, R&B, the Chicago and delta blues and rock & roll. Featuring powerful horns, a driving rhythm section, and captivating lead vocalists, The Rad Trads win audiences with their energy, charisma and enthusiasm. The band performs regularly at Brooklyn Bowl, Webster Hall, The Blue Note, BB King's and Radegast Hall when not touring the U.S. and Europe. Members of The Rad Trads continue to perform with top groups such as Truth & Soul Record's Lee Fields & The Expressions, Lady, EMEFE, Jason Robert Brown. They have performed or recorded with Deer Tick, Jonathan Batiste & Stay Human, Antibalas, St. Paul & The Broken Bones, Ikebe Shakedown, Lenny Pickett and Joe Lovano.

Video: [The Rad Trads Electronic Press Kit](#)

Website: www.theradtrads.com

Kermit Ruffins, trumpeter, combines the spirit of classic New Orleans music with the energy of the Crescent City sound. Kermit co-founded the Rebirth Brass Band, a group who started playing in the streets of the French Quarter. They released critically acclaimed records and performed in concert halls around the world. After seven albums with Rebirth, Kermit began a solo career to focus on classic New Orleans jazz. He established the Barbecue Swingers, a quintet whose name comes from Kermit's habit of cooking up barbecue from the back of his pickup before gigs. Kermit has recorded seven solo albums. Audiences applaud his original compositions and revel in his innovative versions of classics. His virtuoso trumpet playing and expressive voice have earned him comparisons to Louis Armstrong. His laid-back demeanor, zest for life and appreciation of good food and music embody the character of the city where he was born and raised.

Video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GyDwYYC8FY8>

Website: <http://www.basinstreetrecords.com/artists/kermit-ruffins>

Poncho Sanchez, percussionist, has a way with imaginative rhythms that made him one of the most influential conga players in Afro-Cuban jazz. Sanchez moved to Los Angeles from Laredo, Texas, where he was influenced by the music in his Chicano neighborhood and he practiced congas to Cal Tjader, Machito, and Tito Puente records, and was influenced by the Jazz Crusaders. He has been featured on albums by the Jazz Crusaders, Eddie Harris, Freddie Hubbard, Tito Puente, Mongo Santamaria, Dianne Reeves, Joey DeFrancesco and Terence Blanchard. Poncho was part of Cal Tjader's band from 1975 until 1982. That same year, he signed with Concord for the release of *Sonando!*, an album that marked the beginning of a prolific musical partnership that spans 30 years. Sanchez's efforts paid off after more than two decades in music when his album, *Latin Soul*, received a Grammy award as Best Latin Album.

Video: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Zo_-JCAH-Mo

Website: <http://www.ponchosanchez.com/unflashed.html>

Snarky Puppy plays an infectious mixture of jazz, funk and world music. The once Texan, now New York-based quasi-collective group went from the best-kept secret to a highly respected name in instrumental music. The band earned praise from critical stalwarts like the BBC, *Village Voice* and more. They have performed at venues and festivals in Asia, Europe, Australia and North America. Snarky Puppy won a Grammy in 2014 with the release of their latest album *We Like It Here*. The album, recorded in their signature live style, debuted at # 1 on the iTunes jazz charts and established the band for a new movement in jazz. The band released their first major label album, with the world famous Metropole Orkest on the Impulse Label. Snarky Puppy is recording the second volume of their Grammy award-winning *Family Dinner* series.

Video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MLJLRN8LOVA>

Website: www.snarkypuppy.com

Byron Stripling, trumpeter, has a very wide range, a beautiful tone and the ability to blend together many influences into his own style. Stripling is an extroverted performer who brings the audience into his music and is constantly in demand. The happiness that he exudes through his trumpet, his vocals and his words is reminiscent of Louis Armstrong, yet very much his own. Originally, Stripling enrolled at the Eastman School of Music with plans to become a classical trumpeter. His career blossomed as he toured with legends such as Clark Terry, Lionel Hampton, Dizzy Gillespie and Billy Eckstine, the Woody Herman Orchestra and the Count Basie Orchestra when it was led by Thad Jones and Frank Foster III. His performances are full of remarkable musicianship, wit, showmanship and a joyous spirit.

Video: [Byron Stripling with the Boston Pops](#)

Website: www.byronstripling.com

Jon Weber, pianist, has recorded and toured all over the world, winning numerous honors for performance and composition and scoring extensively for television since 1987. Jon's musical passion (plus absolute pitch and recall) surfaced at age three on a toy organ. By six, he internalized 2,000 standards from his Grandma's piano rolls and, by 19, Jon's jazz quintet had opened up for Pat Metheny, Buddy Rich, Freddie Hubbard and Stanley Turrentine at major summer jazz festivals. Gary Burton, Roy Hargrove and Niels-Henning Ørsted Pedersen have recorded Jon's music, and his newest critically-acclaimed release, *Simple Complex*, rose to #1. CNN, CNBC, Black Entertainment TV, Bravo/Arts, National Public Radio and Voice of America have profiled Jon's unique musical depth and vast knowledge of his craft. Jon lives in New York City and hosts NPR's "Piano Jazz with Jon Weber" after frequently serving as guest host for Marian McPartland.

Video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7Owkyev2ftU>

Website: <http://www.jonwebermusic.com/>

Lizz Wright, vocalist, gained worldwide recognition for her critically acclaimed debut record, *Salt*, in 2003. She quickly became one of the most captivating female vocalists of her generation. Lizz was born in Georgia and lives in North Carolina. Being a preacher's daughter, she sang during most church services. Her voice and spirit that captivates listeners was rooted here. She

seamlessly weaves through gospel, jazz, folk, pop and blues. Lizz focused on songwriting in her next records. “Hit the Ground” proved Lizz’s evolution as a storyteller, and helped propel *Dreaming Wide Awake* to number one on *Billboard’s* Top Contemporary Jazz chart. Lizz’s album, *Fellowship*, regards her years singing in church on which she delivered poignant readings of gospel classics, but her broad perspective and desire to tell her story allowed her to find the spiritual in comparatively secular material. After releasing four acclaimed records for Verve, Lizz moved to Concord Records to release *Freedom & Surrender*. The record features contributions from Reagon and Harris, David Batteau, J.D. Souther, and Maia Sharp. Lizz’s music allows her to illuminate a dynamic soul through layers of passion and playfulness found within the songs.

Video: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=n_dSukFwfJs&feature=youtu.be

Website: <http://lizzwright.net/>

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