

**SFJAZZ Announces Artist Programming for
2021 San Francisco Jazz Festival**

**Virtual Festival to Run June 4 to June 25, 2021
Over Two-Dozen Exclusive Performances and Events**

Direct from [SFJAZZ.org](https://www.sfjazz.org)

(San Francisco, CA, May 18, 2021) – This summer, SFJAZZ will present a virtual edition of the annual San Francisco Jazz Festival. Running June 4 to June 25, the 2021 San Francisco Jazz Festival will feature almost two-dozen broadcasts of archival Festival performances with a special live performance from the SFJAZZ Center stage on June 17. Festival artists include saxophonist and Blue Note recording artist Melissa Aldana, famed drummer Brian Blade & The Fellowship Band, award-winning vocalist Jazzmeia Horn, a Tribute to Ernesto Lecuona with Chucho Valdés, Michel Camilo & Gonzalo Rubalcaba, a special performance ‘Live from Havana’ with pianist Harold López-Nussa, and a program with activist and educator Angela Davis and bassist and composer Marcus Shelby.

The Festival will also present SFJAZZ Poet Laureate Marc Bamuthi Joseph’s “The Just And The Blind,” the Thelonious Monk film *Music in Monk Time* and two family matinee performances. The San Francisco Jazz Festival is only available to SFJAZZ Members with memberships starting at \$5 per month or \$50 annually.

All San Francisco Jazz Festival broadcasts will include the SFJAZZ 50/50 Fund for viewers to contribute financially to the artists performing and SFJAZZ. The Fund is split 50/50 with 50% going to the performing artists and 50% going to SFJAZZ. The Fund was created in March 2020 and has collected over \$600,000.

San Francisco Jazz Festival 2021 Programming

SFJAZZ Membership required for viewing and Digital Memberships available from \$5 at [SFJAZZ.org](https://www.sfjazz.org).

Harold López-Nussa Quartet & Special Guests

Thursday, June 3, 7:00pm PST

Re-broadcast, Sunday, June 6, 6:00pm PST

Recorded in Havana, this concert by the masterful pianist Harold López-Nussa and his band is the first online SFJAZZ presentation to originate from outside the continental U.S. As scion of an illustrious musical family, López-Nussa is one of the brightest lights on Havana’s thriving jazz scene and is an artist who has fully integrated his classical training and love of the jazz continuum with his Cuban roots.

Melissa Aldana Quartet

Friday, June 4, 5:00pm PST

Re-broadcast, Saturday, June 5, 10:00am PST

Grammy nominated saxophonist, Blue Note Recording Artist, and 2013 Thelonious Monk Competition winner Melissa Aldana made her SFJAZZ Center debut performance on June 13, 2017 and this show features her quartet. She first performed at SFJAZZ in the wake of her breakthrough 2014 release *Melissa Aldana & Crash Trio*, and made her Miner Auditorium debut with this June 13, 2017 concert during the 35th San Francisco Jazz Festival featuring her telepathic quintet.

Music in Monk Time: A Retrospective Tribute to Thelonious Sphere Monk

Thursday, June 10, 7:00pm PST

Re-broadcast, Sunday, June 13, 6:00pm PST

In a first-ever U.S. broadcast, this rarely seen documentary and concert film on the life and music of jazz giant Thelonious Monk returns, 36 years after SFJAZZ presented its Bay Area premiere. Conceived by producer Stephen Rice and directed by John Goodhue, *Music in Monk Time: A Retrospective Tribute to Thelonious Sphere Monk* combines interview and performance footage of Monk's classic compositions by his legendary associates Dizzy Gillespie, Carmen McRae, and Milt Jackson. SFJAZZ premiered the film to a sold-out crowd in March 1985, and the film was televised throughout the world, however it has never been broadcast in the United States, making this the second time SFJAZZ has premiered this priceless document of jazz history.

Brian Blade & The Fellowship Band

Friday, June 11, 5:00pm PST

Re-broadcast, Saturday, June 12, 10:00am PST

GRAMMY-winning drummer, composer, and founding SFJAZZ Collective member **Brian Blade** and his **Fellowship Band** made their debut on the Miner stage with this performance, filmed on June 17, 2016 during the 34th San Francisco Jazz Festival, performing material from his discography including his blockbuster 2014 Blue Note album *Landmarks* and the then-forthcoming 2017 follow-up *Body and Shadow*.

SFJAZZ Family Matinee with Marcus Shelby Orchestra's Duke Ellington Tribute

Sunday, June 13, 11:00am PST

Recorded May 26, 2019, Marcus Shelby's Orchestra honors the swinging, blues-heavy legacy of jazz's greatest composer, Duke Ellington, with this night of music featuring vocalists Kenny Washington and the Dynamic Miss Faye Carol in addition to GRAMMY winner and former Turtle Island Quartet violinist Mads Tolling.

Jazzmeia Horn

Friday, June 18, 5:00pm PST

Re-broadcast, Saturday, June 19, 10:00am PST

Vocalist **Jazzmeia Horn** won first place at the 2013 Sarah Vaughan International Jazz Vocal Competition and top honors at the star-making 2015 Thelonious Monk Institute International Jazz Competition. Her 2017 debut "A Social Call" was nominated for a GRAMMY and voted the best jazz vocal debut in the 2017 NPR Music Jazz Critics Poll. This June 2019 performance filmed during the

37th San Francisco Jazz Festival features her stellar trio and music from her sophomore release (and Concord Records debut) *Love & Liberation*.

Marc Bamuthi Joseph's "The Just & The Blind"

Saturday, June 19, 7:00pm PST

SFJAZZ Poet Laureate, Marc Bamuthi Joseph presented, on January 18, 2020, "The Just & The Blind" with composer-violinist Daniel Bernard Roumain, street dance pioneer Drew Dollaz, and electrifying vocalist Lalin St. Juste. Commissioned by Carnegie Hall, "The Just & The Blind" is a multimedia work that explores racial profiling and the prison-industrial complex in a series of short vignettes that includes music, dance, and spoken word.

Marcus Shelby Quartet with Angela Davis

Blues Legacies and Black Feminism

Sunday, June 20, 11:00am PST

Rebroadcast in recognition of Juneteenth and originally presented on Fridays at Five in June 2020, This special performance was filmed on May 24, 2019 during bassist and composer Marcus Shelby's 2018-2019 Season week as Resident Artistic Director, featuring author, activist, and educator Angela Davis in a program of music and spoken word dedicated to her 1999 book *Blues Legacies and Black Feminism* that illuminates the legacies of blues and jazz legends "Ma" Rainey, Bessie Smith and Billie Holiday. An all-star quartet including saxophonist Tia Fuller, pianist Tammy Hall, and drummer Terri-Lyne Carrington joined Marcus for this once-in-a-lifetime event, along with guest vocalists Kim Nalley, Paula West, and Tiffany Austin.

SFJAZZ Family Matinee with SFJAZZ High School All-Stars Virtual Summer Concert

Thursday, June 24, 5:00pm

Comprised of two ensembles - the **Big Band**, led by Paul Contos, and the **Combo**, led by Dann Zinn - the **SFJAZZ High School All-Stars** is a pre-professional training program for current Bay Area high school age jazz musicians. In a typical year, the All-Stars rehearse and perform throughout the school year at the SFJAZZ Center, receive mentorship and clinics with leading jazz professionals, record a studio album, and appear at music festivals and competitions. This year however, the All-Stars have rehearsed outdoors, in distanced sections, or via video conferencing in order to keep all members safe and healthy. This virtual performance is the result of individual members working at the Center, in outdoor performing venues, and online to create this beautiful musical collage.

Chucho Valdés, Michel Camilo & Gonzalo Rubalcaba: Tribute to Ernesto Lecuona

Friday, June 25, 5:00pm PST

Re-broadcast, Saturday, June 26, 10:00am PST

This exclusive performance filmed from Miner Auditorium May 25, 2017 was a monumental gathering of the three greatest living Caribbean pianists, brought together in tribute to pianist and composer Ernesto Lecuona, renowned as one of the most important and influential figures in Cuban music. Son of Cuban music

icon Bebo Valdés and a six-time GRAMMY winner, Chucho Valdés was co-founder of the seminal ensemble Irakere and forged an unprecedented synthesis of ritualistic Afro-Cuban percussion, post-bop improvisation, European classical music, rock and R&B. Gonzalo Rubalcaba has integrated huge swaths of the European classical and jazz traditions, while maintaining bone-deep ties to the rhythmic currents of Cuba. He quickly gained fame on the American scene, distinguishing himself with his bravura technique and hair-raising rhythmic prowess. A native of the Dominican Republic, Michel Camilo has been widely recognized for his astounding technique, winning a Latin GRAMMY Award for the 2000 Verve album *Spain* and the 2004 Best Latin Jazz Album GRAMMY for *Live at the Blue Note*.

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