



NEWSLETTER



JAZZ PENSACOLA



Advancing jazz music along the Gulf coast.

APRIL 30TH
 highlights
 jazz's role in
 promoting
 peace,
 dialogue, and
 intercultural
 exchange.



It's Jazz Appreciation Month!

We invite you to join us for our Jazz Jam on the 7th, Jazz in the Quarter featuring local university bands on the 21st, and the jazz fusion sounds of Dionysus at the Handlebar on the 10th.

Get your ticket for our inaugural Sunset Cruise Live Music event on May 1st with the smooth sounds of Total Connection, proceeds benefit Jazz Pensacola.

Let's keep life fun and the spirit of jazz alive!

WHAT'S NEWS?

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April: The Month to Celebrate Jazz History

Rhonda Deaton, Administrator Jazz Pensacola



April stands as a beacon of celebration for jazz history, honoring a genre that has shaped American culture and influenced music worldwide.

The designation of April as Jazz Appreciation Month (JAM) originated in 2001, spearheaded by the Smithsonian National Museum of American History. The initiative was created to recognize jazz as a treasured national and global heritage, promoting its legacy through performances, education, and public programs.

The month of April was chosen for its symbolic significance:

- **April 30th marks International Jazz Day**, established by UNESCO in 2011. This day highlights jazz's role in promoting peace, dialogue, and intercultural exchange.
- **Many jazz legends were born or passed away in April, including:**
 - Duke Ellington (born April 29, 1899) – One of the most influential composers and bandleaders in jazz history.
 - Billie Holiday (born April 7, 1915) – Known for her emotive vocal style and powerful influence on jazz and pop singing.
 - Herbie Hancock (born April 12, 1940) – A pioneering jazz pianist and composer whose innovation spans decades.
- **April also symbolizes renewal and creativity, much like jazz itself, which thrives on improvisation and constant evolution.**

Throughout the month, jazz organizations, schools, and venues host concerts, workshops, and festivals, showcasing the rich diversity of jazz styles—from New Orleans Dixieland to bebop, fusion, and contemporary jazz. The month not only celebrates the genre's musical brilliance but also highlights its impact on civil rights, cultural expression, and social movements.

April, with its blend of historical milestones and the spirit of creative expression, is the perfect month to honor jazz—the timeless art form that continues to inspire and unite people across generations.

Jazz is Celebrated throughout Florida in April

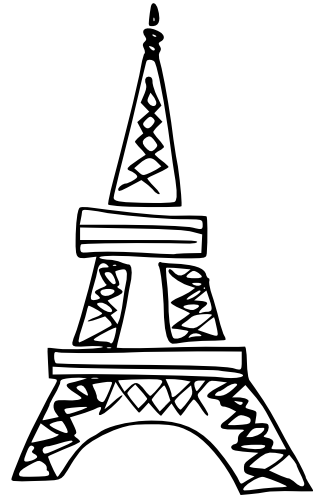
There are a number of jazz music festivals and concerts throughout the state of Florida for you to enjoy:

[A Guide to Jazz Festivals In Florida](#)

APRIL IN PARIS

When you hear “April,” the first thing that you will probably think of is something positive. Mainly because April is the peak of spring, and we know spring bodes well. As such, April is synonymous with spring flowers, new love, and rain showers.

April is a dreamy month that we often associate with new beginnings and productivity. No wonder it has inspired its fair share of songs like this popular jazz rendition of [“April In Paris” By Ella Fitzgerald And Louis Armstrong:](#)





Notable Jazz Musician Birthdays in April

JILL SCOTT	4-04-72
BENNY GREEN	4-04-63
STEVE GADD	4-09-45
DENNY ZEITLIN	4-10-38
HERBIE HANCOCK	4-12-40
MARQUIS HILL	4-15-87
ULF WAKENIUS	4-16-58
JAN HAMMER	4-17-48
ANDY NARELL	4-18-54
MADELEINE PEYROUX	4-18-74
MIKE ARMANDO	4-19-51
HARVEY MASON	4-22-47
ALAN BROADBENT	4-23-47
CARL ALLEN	4-25-57
LIONEL LOUEKE	4-27-73
KIM PREVOST	4-27-68



Congratulations to the Winners of the 15th Annual Jazz Pensacola Student Jazz Competition:

On Saturday, March 22, in the Mainstage Theater on the campus of the University of West Florida, nine student finalists performed for the 15th Annual Jazz Pensacola Student Jazz Competition.

Student finalists were selected from submitted applications and digitally recorded performances of two tunes demonstrating their jazz skills. Judges for the live event were professional musicians and educators Cynthia Domulot, Bob Maksymkow and Don Snowden. During the competition, the students were accompanied by professional musicians Mary Chavez, Steve Douglas and Jimmy Roebuck. Roger Villines was the Master of Ceremonies. Special thanks goes to the University of West Florida for providing the excellent venue and stage support.

Each student performed two of their chosen jazz tunes before a live audience, after which the judges deliberated and determined the following placements. Students were then presented with monetary awards ranging from \$100 to \$500. They were all winners!

High School Instrumental Division:

First Place: Andersen Shell – Niceville High School

Second Place: Tristan Lopez – Pace High School

Third Place: Fawaz Hamid – Pace High School

Jazz Vocal Division:

First Place: Kayla Neely – University of West Florida

Second Place: Danylo Cherkashyn – Pensacola State College

Third Place: Gabrielle Carley – University of West Florida

College Instrumental Division:

First Place: David Lyon – University of West Florida

Second Place: Nehemiah Trotman – University of West Florida

Third Place: Alyssa-James Gray – University of West Florida

Special thanks to our Sponsors and Jazz Education Team Supporters (JETS), Arts, Culture and Entertainment (ACE), Music Study Group of Pensacola, the Studer Foundation, and Dr. Michelle Brandhorst, Steve Douglas, and Roger and Kat Villines.

Jazz Pensacola's mission is to encourage and assist emerging jazz musicians during their student years. The jazz community, including musicians and educators, feel that by welcoming students and giving them an opportunity to showcase and develop their talents, we are helping to create the jazz musicians of the future.

Get on Board
and support
Jazz Pensacola!

Tickets Selling
FAST!

SUNSET CRUISE

May 1st

6:00 - 8:00 PM

LIVE MUSIC SERIES



TOTAL CONNECTION

\$75



EVERY 1ST THURSDAY OF THE MONTH
experience the ultimate sunset cruise,
where breathtaking views meet live music
performances by talented local artists.

Departing from Downtown Pensacola.

 LIVE
MUSIC

 SUNSET
VIEWS

 CASH
BAR

 APPETIZERS

 VALIDATED
PARKING

TICKETS & INFORMATION AT JAZZPENSACOLA.COM

 @PENSACOLAFERRY

Pensacola Bay
cityferry 



[tickets @ jazzpensacola.com](http://tickets@jazzpensacola.com)



JAZZ APPRECIATION MONTH APRIL CALENDAR OF EVENTS



Wed, 4/2 **Music: Just What the Doctor Ordered - Baptist Hospital**
2 - 4:00 PM A partnership with Jazz Pensacola & The Escambia County Medical Society Foundation

Mon., 4/7 **Jazz Jam - Odd Colony Brewing , 260 N. Palafox**
6:30 - 9 PM A fun opportunity to perform jazz with the Fabulous House Band

Mon, 4/21 **Jazz in the Quarter ‘College Night’ - Phineas Phoggs in Seville Qtr**
6:30 - 9 PM College Bands from PSC, UWF, and W Florida State performing

 **NORTHWEST FLORIDA
STATE COLLEGE**
6:30 - 7:10 PM

 **PENSACOLA
STATE COLLEGE**
7:20 - 8:00 PM

 **UNIVERSITY of WEST FLORIDA**
8:10 - 8:50 PM

Concerts featuring the JazzAbouts and hosted by Joe Occhipinti

Tuesdays **Java and Jazz - The Drowsy Poet - 86 Brent Lane**
3 - 5:00 PM **FREE!**

Thursdays **Jazz - Goat Lips Chew & Brew House - 2811 Copter Rd.**
4 - 600 PM **FREE!**

Fridays **New Venue! 850 SPORTS BAR – 5190 Mobile Highway**
4 - 7:00 PM **FREE!**

Join the fun at YOURLife and The Blake in April!

Thu., 4/3 **YOURLife - 8601 N. David Hwy, Suite 1001**

Mon., 4/7

Wed., 4/9
2:00 PM

Wed., 4/30 **The Blake - 428 Airport Blvd.**
3:00 PM



JAZZ APPRECIATION MONTH APRIL CALENDAR OF EVENTS



Concerts featuring the JazzAbouts and hosted by Joe Occhipinti, continued

- Fri., 4/4** **Swing Dancing with the Seaside Swingouts @**
7 - 10:00 PM **The Way You Move, 918 Winton Avenue**
- Sat., 4/19** **Java and Jazz - The Drowsy Poet - 86 Brent Lane**
11 - 1:00 PM **Special Jazz Appreciation Month Show**
- Sun., 4/20** **Easter Sunday Jazz Brunch - Scenic Hills Country Club**
1 - 3:00 PM **8891 Burning Tree Rd., [Call 850-476-0380 for details](tel:850-476-0380)**
- Fri., 4/25** **Quayside Gallery**
5 - 7:00 PM **17 East Zaragoza St., Pensacola**
- Tue., 4/29** **Jazz By the Books - West Florida Public Libraries - FREE!**
12 - 2:00 PM **Main Branch, 239 N. Spring Street**

***Performances are subject to change without notice.