



## Media Release

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*Find Your Jazz at the*

# 2008 Edmonton International Jazz Festival

A diverse range of sounds and styles come together to create a music medley during the **Edmonton International Jazz Festival (EIJF)**. Artists from across Canada, the United States, Cuba, Portugal, Finland and Poland, as well as Edmonton's home-grown jazz talent, play a variety of city venues from **June 20 - 29, 2008**. From big-band to bebop, the 2008 EIJF offers a style of jazz to suit every taste.

"The term 'jazz' is intimidating to many," says **Kent Sangster, Executive Director** of the **Edmonton Jazz Festival Society**. "With the amazing array of music and talent featured in our line up, this year's Festival is the perfect opportunity to hear the genre's many forms. We have jazz for everybody, from seasoned aficionados to jazz newbies, for those who want a mellow groove to those who want to dance the night away."

The **Winspear Centre** hosts the Festival's two headline concerts. The **Jazz at Lincoln Center Orchestra** with Grammy-award winning trumpeter **Wynton Marsalis** play June 25, and Oregon-based "little orchestra" **Pink Martini** takes the Winspear stage June 24. Tickets for both these shows are available now through the Winspear Centre box office.

Several jazz music stars grace the **MacLab Theatre** stage throughout the EIJF. The **Opening Night Gala** concert kicks off the festival Friday, June 20, featuring **The Black Heritage Pioneer Singers** and **Dixieland Express Jazz Band**, with special guest **Rollanda Lee**. The **Edmonton Jazz Orchestra** with 2007 Juno Award-winning Latin Jazz pianist **Hilario Duran**; **John Scofield**, one of the "big three" of current jazz guitarists; jazz master saxophonist **Dave Liebman**; **Molly Johnson**, one of Canada's top female vocalists; and a-capella group **Naturally Seven** also play the MacLab Theatre.

This year, the EIJF makes its Velvet Underground debut with a fountain of funky flavour June 21, with Brooklyn-based improvisational groove group **Out To Lunch** and Edmonton's own **Dave Babcock**. Legendary funk and soul master **Maceo Parker** brings his funky music to the **Urban Lounge** for the ultimate wrap-up dance bash on the Festival's closing night, June 29.

With a show every night of the ten day festival, the **Yardbird Suite** is home to an array of acts. Finnish pianist-harpist-composer **Iro Haarla**; Canadian drummer **Joel Haynes**; U.S. vocalist **Andy Bey**; Canadian **DMB Quintet**; Australian group **Way Out West**; American bassist **Chris Tarry**; Juno award-nominated guitarist **Michael Occhipinti**; Cuban-Canadian piano prodigy **David Virelles**; Edmonton sax player **Jeff Antoniuk**; Polish guitarist **Maciek Grzywacz**; and the **Oles-Koonse Duo** from the U.S. round out the series. The late night hardcore series boasts midnight gigs with Edmonton stalwarts **Jim Head**, **Mike Lent**, **Bob Tildesley**, and **Dino Dominelli**. Late night jam sessions follow each of the hardcore shows.

The **Catalyst Theatre** highlights jazz with a world-music flair in a series of concerts featuring Edmonton saxophonist **Jerrold Dubyk**; Calgary-based multi-instrumentalist **Amir Amiri**; Edmonton-based violinist **George Andrix**; bassist and Alberta favourite **Rubim de Toledo**; virtuosic guitarist **Duane Andrews**; Québec pianist **Yves Leveille**; and Portuguese double-bassist **Carlos Bica**.

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Edmonton pianists **Wayne Feschuk, Doug Organ, Chris Andrew, Andrew Glover, Bob Kitt** and **Rob Thompson** present their musical stylings at the **Sutton Place Hotel's Central Park Lounge**. Also at Sutton Place, **Bobby Cairns** and **Mo Lefever** host **Jazzy Brunches**, and **Bill Richards** hosts the **Chocolate Buffet**. **Four Rooms Restaurant, Jeffrey's Café, Hulbert's Coffee House, Fresh Start Bakery** and **Madison's Grill** host some of Edmonton's finest with the Festival's ever-popular **Club Series**, featuring the likes of trombonist **Audrey Ochoa**, vocalist **Anna Beaumont**, Dixieland diva **Rollanda Lee**, groups **Harpe Jazz, Mobius, Celsius**, and many more.

**JazzWorks**, a series of creative and professional development workshops for budding artists which debuted at the 2005 Yardbird Jazz Festival, returns as a key component of this year's Festival.

Tickets for Winspear Centre presentations are available at the **Winspear Centre box office**, call **428-1414**; MacLab Theatre presentations are available at the **Citadel box office**, call **425-1820**. Tickets for all other presentations are available at **Tix On The Square**, call **420-1757** or visit [www.tixonthesquare.com](http://www.tixonthesquare.com).

For more information about the **Edmonton International Jazz Festival**, as well as the full schedule please visit [www.edmontonjazz.com](http://www.edmontonjazz.com) or call **990-0222**.

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#### **About Jazzworks:**

The Jazzworks Small-Group Creative Workshops offer an opportunity for aspiring young musicians to develop their jazz music skills. This educational component of the Edmonton International Jazz Festival targets post-secondary musicians, young jazz professionals and exceptional high school students. Interested musicians submit a recorded audition, and participants are placed in ensembles with a full rhythm section and horns; these ensembles take part in a week-long series of workshops during EIJF, conducted by notable jazz musicians from Canada and around the world. The workshops are a forum for providing constructive feedback and information on improvisation, composition, technique, style and genre division, the business of music, and general performance structure. All workshops are open to public audiences, with a participant performance at the end of the festival.

Please see [www.jazzworks.ca](http://www.jazzworks.ca) for more information, including registration details, adjudicator biographies and exact performance times.