**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE** **NEWS**

# GREATER HARTFORD FESTIVAL OF JAZZ RETURNS FOR 3-DAYS AND 4-NIGHTS OF FREE-OF-CHARGE JAZZ PERFORMANCES IN BUSHNELL PARK

Hall High School Jazz Band and Alumni Kick Off Festival Thursday, July 13
4:30-9:00 PM with Special Guest Tenor Saxophonist Camille Thurman;
Conard High School and Guilford High School Jazz Bands to Perform

July 16, 2022 Greater Hartford Festival of Jazz at Bushnell Park (Harford, CT)

HARTFORD, CT (April 18, 2023) The 32nd annual Greater Hartford Jazz Festival, New England's largest free public jazz festival, will kick-off on Thursday, July 13 at 4:30 PM with Hall High School's 23-person Jazz Band and special guest Tenor Saxophonist, Composer and Vocalist Camille Thurman. Conard High School's Jazz Combo and Guilford High School Jazz Band will also perform.

"We are thrilled to kick-off our 32nd annual Greater Hartford Festival of Jazz with West Hartford's very own Hall High School Jazz Band and special guest Jazz at Lincoln Center tenor saxophonist and vocalist Camille Thurman on Thursday, July 13 at 4:30 PM at Bushnell Park in downtown Hartford and bring other local high schools to the stage this year," said Charles Christie, President, Greater Hartford Festival of Jazz. "As Hartford's very own jazz spectacular, offering four nights and 3 days chock full of live free-of-charge jazz for 100,000 visitors who travel from

coast to coast for our celebrated lineup of guests, we are thrilled to herald in another year by saluting our own talented budding jazz musicians and celebrate 12 jazz icons who are part of our 2023 Jazz Vibrations schedule."

"We are proud to kick off the Greater Hartford Jazz Festival for the second year in a row," said James Antonucci, Director of Bands, Hall High School. "Our award-winning Concert Jazz Band -- named "Best High School Big Band" by DownBeat Magazine -- consistently takes top honors at district, state and national music festivals and competitions. The Concert Jazz Band is a 13-time finalist at the prestigious Essentially Ellington High School Jazz Band Competition at Lincoln Center and has repeatedly taken first place honors in its division at Berklee High School & National Jazz Festival."

Hall High School Jazz Band

Camille Thurman, composer, multi-instrumentalist, vocalist, and unique interpreter of the jazz tradition

"Firstly, I applaud Charles Christie for his vision and purpose cementing the Greater Hartford Festival of Jazz as the signature summer entertainment event for families throughout the Capital City and the Greater Hartford and New England Region," said Dr. Shelley D. Best, Chief Executive Officer, Greater Hartford Arts Council (GHAC). "As a long-term partner and funder of this legendary festival, this spectacular festival of diverse talent is a critical economic catalyst for driving our creative economy. Hartford is a destination for world-class jazz music. Families, friends, and acquaintances can unite for the love of jazz, arts, and entertainment. The Greater Hartford Festival of Jazz is iconic, and we are so pleased to be an integral of it."

The 2023 Greater Hartford Festival of Jazz Schedule/Lineup follows:

**THURSDAY, JULY 13**
4:30 - 9:00 PM Hall High School Jazz Band with Camille Thuman; Conard and Guilford High School Jazz Combos

**FRIDAY, JULY 14**

6:00 PM Latin Heartbeat Orchestra "The Power of Attraction"
8:00 PM Tony Succar "Unity Show"
10:00 PM Eddie Palmieri

**SATURDAY, JULY 15**

2:30 PM Paula Atherton
4:30 PM Rob Zinn, Anything Can Happen Tour
6:30 PM The New UrbanJazz Party featuring Bob Baldwin, Ragan Whiteside & Friends
8:30 PM Special EFX All Stars featuring Chieli Minucci, Elliot Yamen, Nelson Rangell, Lao Tizer, Karen Briggs, Dave Livolsi, and Joel Rosenblatt
10:30 PM Maysa

**SUNDAY, JULY 16**

10:00 AM The Hot Cat Jazz Band Jazz Mass at Christ Church Cathedral Downtown Hartford
2:30 PM Matt Dwonszyk and the Dwonztet
4:30 PM Jazz & Strings Charlie Parker Guest Kris Allen
6:30 PM The BlackByrds
8:30 PM Take 6

"We've got a jam-packed schedule reflecting all jazz styles and rhythms, from classic to funk and fusion, with over a dozen beloved performers and groups, from Latin greats Eddie Palmieri, Tony Succar and the Latin Heartbeat Orchestra on Friday to Special EFX All Stars and Take 6 on Sunday. Art From Da Hart will provide dance performances throughout the weekend," continued Christie. "We've got a range of sponsorship options for companies, foundations and individuals to support us and we hope there's a big increase in sponsorship in the coming weeks. We are a volunteer-fueled non-profit and count on corporate sponsorship and individual gifts to return year after year with great music. There's still time to support our event which is so valuable to local businesses in the greater Hartford region."

The Greater Hartford Festival of Jazz will feature items from 70 artists and craftspeople selling hand-crafted jewelry, clothing, gifts, and beauty products along with Health & Human Services vendors. An array of 23 food vendors, including mobile food trucks, reflecting the diversity of the greater Hartford region will offer freshly prepared food and beverages throughout the Festival including plant-based cuisine along with comfort, BBQ, Caribbean and other food categories.

**ABOUT THE GREATER HARTFORD FESTIVAL OF JAZZ**

Now in its 32nd year, The Greater Festival of Jazz, a 501(c)3 organization run entirely by volunteers, brings together top names in jazz for its free annual three-day series of performances in Bushnell Park in downtown Hartford, CT the third week in July.

Originally conceived by Paul Brown, noted Hartford jazz bassist and music educator in 1991, The Greater Hartford Festival of Jazz draws over 70,000 participants from across the country, realizing Brown's dream of a world-class jazz event in Hartford. Now in its 32nd year, this free-of-charge Festival is supported by small and medium-sized charitable gifts and donations from foundations, businesses, and corporations as well as City of Hartford and State of Connecticut grants. The Festival is also generously supported by contributions from individual jazz lovers throughout the region.

Over 100 volunteers donate their time to work at the Festival, a true testimony to the popularity to which the Festival has risen since its debut over 30 years ago. The Festival has a history of presenting national and international mainstream, cutting-edge, traditional and contemporary jazz performers, aspiring local and regional artists and some truly wonderful young musicians from area schools and noteworthy jazz programs. During the Festival's lifetime, music history has literally been written on stage, perfectly matched by the intensity and appreciation of its audiences. For more information, visit https://www.hartfordjazz.org/.

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Assets: **2022 GHFJ Overview** and more **images** | GHFJ **Reel**

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