



MONTCLAIR JAZZ FESTIVAL[®]

PRESENTED BY [bdp holdings llc](#)
PRODUCED BY [JAZZ HOUSE KIDS[™]](#)

Contact: Nancy Klein
nklein@jazzhousekids.org | 973.744.2273

JAZZ HOUSE KIDS announces the 13th Annual Montclair Jazz Festival First Wave of Talent Presented by BDP Holdings, LLC

*Craig Handy 2nd Line Smith, B3 organist Akiko Tsuruga,
Winard Harper & Jeli Posse, Rising Star Nicole Glover + more
plus DJ Brother Mister Dance Party returns to the summer stage*

The award-winning MONTCLAIR **JAZZ** FESTIVAL, presented by [BDP Holdings, LLC](#) and produced by [JAZZ HOUSE KIDS](#), is the largest FREE jazz festival in the greater NYC area and one of the largest free jazz festivals in the country, featuring more than 60 hours of live music, four downtown stages, 50 musical acts, 200+ artists, over 100 food + artisan vendors and 40,000+ music fans. This year's festival returns to Montclair, New Jersey's downtown corridor of Montclair with more activities, events and music and an after-party at the Wellmont Theater on the final day in September.

This week, as the nation officially observes Juneteenth marking the final end of slavery in 1865 in this country, the MONTCLAIR **JAZZ** FESTIVAL celebrates jazz, an original music born of the creativity and resiliency of the African-American experience now a symbol of freedom celebrated around the world. The three month long jazz festival kicks off with the Soundcheck Series, two evening concerts in July hosted by collaborating partner the [Montclair Center BID](#) followed by the Lackawanna Block Party, an all-day mini-fest in August capped off by the return of **DJ Brother Mister, aka Christian McBride's** dance party before heading to the Grand Finale in September for a fleet of exciting events following Labor Day.

BDP Holdings, LLC, the owner and redeveloper of Lackawanna Plaza which serves as the epicenter of the festival, is returning as The Montclair Jazz Festival's Presenting Sponsor and serves as a member of the Board of Directors of JAZZ HOUSE **KIDS**.

"We're proud to welcome the Montclair Jazz Festival back to Downtown Montclair and Lackawanna Plaza and we can't wait to see the festival's lineup of world-class jazz musicians perform here in our neighborhood. The Montclair Jazz Festival reflects the values of the Montclair community -- creativity; inclusivity; diversity and equity. These are the same values BDP Holdings was founded upon. They are reflected in all of our projects -- including the redevelopment of Lackawanna Plaza, where everyone will be able to gather together for great performances, food, and places where our history and diversity will be honored and celebrated. We congratulate Melissa Walker and Christian McBride on 20 years of education and celebration of jazz, and making the Montclair Jazz Festival one of our community's most anticipated annual events."

David Placek, Managing Partner, BDP Holdings, LLC

The MONTCLAIR JAZZ FESTIVAL will once again transform the vibrant, arts-rich New York City urban suburb of Montclair into an inclusive, family-friendly music mecca with dates in July, August and September.



Soundcheck Series | July 13 + 27 | 6:00 - 9:00 pm
Hosted by Montclair Center Bid
(rain dates 7/14 + 7/28)

On Wednesday, July 13, the MONTCLAIR JAZZ FEST **Soundcheck Series** kicks off with a New Orleans-inspired funk set by veteran tenor saxophonist **Craig Handy and his 2nd Line Smith**, with opening act saxophonist, JAZZ HOUSE alum **Birsa Chatterjee**, blending together American classical jazz with ancient Indian traditions for a highly-charged, emotional sound.

The MONTCLAIR **JAZZ** FEST keeps it cooking for the second **Soundcheck Series** on Wednesday, July 27 as the ever-grooving B3 organist **Akiko Tsuruga** takes center stage after another JAZZ HOUSE alum opener by **Wallace Roney, Jr.**, the talented young trumpeter who continues to forge new paths on the legacy of his late parents Geri Allen and Wallace Roney, Sr.

The Soundcheck Series also features local restaurants and food trucks, the Jazz Beverage Garden featuring a specially curated Belgian Blonde Ale from the Montclair Brewery, and a VIP seating area for Friends of the MONTCLAIR JAZZ FEST. Pineapple Express will be fully open with BBQ and drink menus.

“Last year’s first downtown Jazz Fest was an unprecedented success thanks to the shared vision and hard work of so many local partners. This year, as a collaborating partner of Montclair Jazz Fest, the Montclair Center BID can’t wait to welcome everyone downtown – visitors, tourists and residents -- to enjoy these amazing performances and celebrate our dynamic community.”

Jason Gleason, Executive Director of the Montclair Center BID



Lackawanna Block Party | August 13 | 12:00 - 10:00 pm
(rain date 8/14)

On Saturday, August 13, the MONTCLAIR **JAZZ** FEST heats up for an all-day Saturday **Lackawanna Block Party**, a not-to-be-missed "mini-fest" double header with a Family Jazz Discovery Zone and food + artisan vendors. Starting at 12 noon, large ensemble performances on the Lackawanna stage will feature 130 student musicians from five states and three countries taking part in the JAZZ HOUSE Summer Workshop. As the sun sets, the area debut of the young trailblazing saxophonist **Nicole Glover** performs with her quartet followed by **Winard Harper & Jeli Posse** with its 9-piece band featuring tap dance, vocals, African percussion, high-energy swing and a positive message of unity.

Capping off the summer series on the evening of August 13, the town will once again gets its groove on for an incredible, diverse and inter-generational boogie fest and one of the largest street dance parties Montclair has ever seen, featuring **DJ Brother Mister**, aka **CHRISTIAN McBRIDE**, MONTCLAIR **JAZZ** FESTIVAL and JAZZ HOUSE **KiDS'** artistic director and 8-time GRAMMY Award-winning bassist. McBride will be spinning his old school soul and funk favorites all night long, and often, playing along, embellishing the bass line with his masterful skill.

"I am really excited about this year's summer lineup. We have two incredible saxophonists: the great Craig Handy and the dynamic Nicole Glover who recently joined Christian McBride's Band. Montclair is really going to swing with Akiko Tsuruga, the infectious long-time B3 organist to NEA Jazz Master Lou Donaldson and with the legendary drummer Winard Harper & Jeli Posse. We are especially proud to showcase two of our talented JAZZ HOUSE alumni and very accomplished young musicians and band leaders, Wallace Roney Jr. and Birsa Chatterjee, as well as our emerging musicians from the JAZZ HOUSE Summer Workshop, giving everyone a chance to shine on the bandstand. Prepare to be wowed by this young talent!"

*Ted Chubb, Vice President of Jazz Education,
JAZZ HOUSE KiDS + Associate Producer*

MONTCLAIR JAZZ FEST Jamboree | September 10 | 1:00 - 9:00 pm

(rain or shine)

Saturday, September 10 marks the **Grand Finale Jamboree** of the MONTCLAIR **JAZZ** FESTIVAL in partnership with Essex County. Fans will gather along the all-pedestrian Bloomfield Avenue from South Park to Lackawanna Plaza -- nearly a half-mile long stretch to North Fullerton -- and celebrate the vibrant and diverse town of Montclair with a jam-packed, exciting day of free, live

music. Internationally-acclaimed jazz headliners will perform on four stages including the Lackawanna Plaza Marquee and Fullerton Street Stages.

Montclair's exceptional local business will be joined by more than 100 artisan food and craft vendors across the town and region for the community to enjoy.

Returning to the fest is the expanded **Family Jazz Discovery Zone** with activities from partners **Montclair Public Library, Montclair YMCA, the Montclair Art Museum and other community partners**, as well as special jazz performances for PreK-aged wee-boppers supported by **Montclair Foundation**.

More Festival Happenings: What's Brewing

Additional MONTCLAIR JAZZ FESTIVAL special events are on the grill with details forthcoming including a **Jazz Movie Night and Friends of the Festival Reception** with partner **Montclair Film**, nights of fun and live music at **Montclair Brewery** and **Montclair Art Museum**, and new this year **Jamboree after-festival dance party** at the **Wellmont Theater** with one of the world's most accomplished turntablist's **DJ Logic**.

A Village of Partnerships

The MONTCLAIR JAZZ FESTIVAL is a FREE live jazz festival for the entire family and the whole community made possible by our partners. This annual event is a unique collaboration among community organizations, corporate entities, local businesses and government including Essex County and the Township of Montclair and our many fans.

Make it Yours...Be Part of It!

MONTCLAIR JAZZ FESTIVAL invites music fans-and local business partners to *play it forward* and score big perks by supporting the rich history of jazz and this FREE world class event by **becoming a Friend of the Festival or upgrading to the Take 5 VIP Club**. This no tickets required musical extravaganza is only made possible by generosity of the community.

Supporters not only keep the festival free and inclusive for everyone, they help Montclair's own award-winning nonprofit JAZZ HOUSE **KiDS** serve as an instrument for change by providing

access, learning, career development and community building through classes, workshops and performance programs in under-resourced schools, after-school and in the community, leaving no child behind regardless of financial circumstances.

For more information on how to become a sponsor, supporter, volunteer or vendor for the 13th annual MONTCLAIR JAZZ FESTIVAL visit the [website](#).

MONTCLAIR JAZZ FESTIVAL
PRESENTED BY
BDP HOLDINGS, LLC
PRODUCED BY
JAZZ HOUSE KIDS®

13th ANNUAL DATES

Wed. July 13 | 6:00 - 9:00 PM
Soundcheck Series

Wed. July 27 | 6:00 - 9:00 PM
Soundcheck Series

Fri. August 12
Special Event: Friends of the Festival @ Montclair Brewery

Sat. August 13 | 12:00 - 10:00 PM
Lackawanna Block Party + DJ Brother Mister

Wed. Sept. 7
Special Event: Special screening + Take 5 Patron Reception @ Montclair Film Clairidge Theater

Thurs. Sept. 8
Special Event: MONTCLAIR JAZZ FEST night @ Montclair Art Museum Free First Thursday

Sat. Sept. 10 | 1:00 - 9:00 PM
Downtown Jamboree

Sat. Sept. 10 | 9:00 PM
After Party: Dance it up with DJ Logic @ the Wellmont

Summer rain dates 7/14, 7/28, 8/13

###