

The Inaugural Jazz Music Awards Announces Its Nominees



The inaugural Jazz Music Awards will take place this year and creator and executive producer Wendy F. Williams has announced the recipients of six honorary awards and nominees for eight categories. The Awards are divided into three categories; Innovator, Composer and Educator. Saxophonist and bandleader Wayne Shorter will be honored with a Lifetime Achievement Award and Dr. Lenora Helms Hammond will receive the Jazz Educator Award.

Jean & Marcus Baylor, also known as The Baylor Project received three nominations for their release, Generations; along with Orrin Evans with two nominations for The Magic of Now and EEE (Eubanks-Evans-Experience) with well-known TV

personality Kevin Eubanks; 2023 NEA Jazz Master and Grammy Award-winning saxophonist Kenny Garrett with two nominations for Sounds From The Ancestors; eight-time Grammy Award-winning bassist Christian McBride with two nominations with his band Inside Straight for Live at the Village Vanguard; acclaimed jazz harpist Brandee Younger with two nominations for Somewhere Different; and contemporary jazz keyboardist Brian Culbertson with two nominations for The Trilogy Red. Contemporary flutist Ragan Whiteside, jazz vocalist Jazzmeia Horn, and multi-instrumentalist and producer Ben Tankard are also among the nominees.

"We are honored to recognize and present a wide range of dynamic and innovative artists including our six award honorees and our thirty-three nominees. I am still amazed that in 2022, a dedicated global Jazz award show in North America has never been done at this level. I am thrilled that we can step into this space to honor and recognize musicians and the entire genre in this way. We are making history and we are just getting started," says Wendy F. Williams, creator and executive producer of the Jazz Music Awards, as well as the General Manager of NPR-affiliate Jazz 91.9 WCLK. "Jazz music has been an essential part of the legacy of Jazz 91.9 WCLK, which will be celebrating fifty years on the air in 2024, from its home on the campus of Clark Atlanta University in Atlanta. By recognizing our honorees and nominees, we are giving thanks for their incredible artistry that furthers the richness of the Jazz tradition, which is integral to American music and culture."

Ledisi, Dee Dee Bridgewater, Ledisi, Lizz Wright and Jazzmeia Horn will perform under Terri Lyne Carrington's musical direction. The ceremony will take place on October 22nd at the Cobb Energy Performance Arts Centre in Atlanta, GA. [Tickets](#) are on sale now and more information about the awards can be found at jazzmusicawards.com.



The Baylor Project

Butcher Brown Rework A B.I.G. Classic For Their Upcoming Big Band Album



Butcher Brown takes on the Notorious B.I.G.'s "Unbelievable" for their upcoming big band album. The late Brooklyn rapper and producer DJ Premier crafted "Unbelievable" for B.I.G.'s 1994 *Ready To Die* debut album. Marcus "Tennishu" Tenney who raps B.I.G.'s verses had this to say about the song:

"This is one of my favorites from B.I.G.'s catalog. This record to me is an example of what makes rap music special. This beat by DJ Premier is one of the greatest beats of all time and the way that the lyrics lay inside of the sections of the beat made it lock into a classic as soon as I heard it."

Butcher Brown has been performing jazz and hip-hop-inspired music since they came along in 2014 with *All Purpose Music*. Their new project *Butcher Brown Presents Trey featuring Tennishu And R4ND4ZZ0 BIGB4ND* started out as a hip-hop album but morphed into a tribute to big band jazz. The artwork was created by designer Lou Beach who designed the cover for Weather Report's fusion classic *Heavy Weather*. The official release date is September 16th and vinyl copies will be available on November 11th. The 12-inch vinyl comes with a 7-inch which has two additional songs, "Guitarmy" and "Peace."

The band will perform at the Afropunk Festival in Brooklyn on September 11th.



R.I.P. Michael Henderson

Bass player and R&B singer Michael Henderson has died at age 71. Henderson started his career as a session player in Detroit during the 1960s. He worked with Aretha Franklin, The

Dramatics, Stevie Wonder and Marvin Gaye before joining Miles Davis' band. Davis was going through his fusion period and Henderson recorded with him on 13 albums including *Live-Evil*, *On The Corner*, *Jack Johnson* and *Agartha*. Henderson's voice became known to R&B fans in 1976 because of his featured vocals on Norman Connors' "You Are My Starship." His "Valentine Love" duet with Jean Carne was another Quiet Storm radio classic and he would record a solo version of the song for his first album *Solid*. He also recorded another much-revered duet for Connors as the other voice with Phyllis Hyman on "We Both Need Each Other." Henderson was heard a lot on the radio during the '80s thanks to his biggest hit "Wide Receiver" and "(We Are Here) To Geek You Up." He was rare because few bass players can be influential as instrumentalists and then transition into a successful career as a singer in a different genre. Henderson never stopped touring and was active on social media. His family reported his passing on his Facebook page.

Singer, Songwriter, Bass Innovator, Music Producer, Father and Son Michael Henderson has peacefully made his transition...

Posted by [MICHAEL HENDERSON](#) on [Tuesday, July 19, 2022](#)

Mark de Clive-Lowe Celebrates The Music Of Pharoah Sanders On New Album



Mark de Clive-Lowe's *Freedom-Celebrating The Music Of Pharoah Sanders* is out now. The producer/musician and his friends vocalist Dwight Tribble, saxophonist Theodross Avery, percussionist Carlos Nino, bass/sousaphone player Corbin Jones and drummer Tommaso Cappellato recorded the album at the now-closed Blue Whale jazz club in Los Angeles. Their tribute to Sanders captures the essence of the saxophonist's spiritual journey in song. Sanders's immersion in free jazz during the '60s was influenced by his time in John Coltrane's band and he also inspired Coltrane. Sanders's interest in chanting and Islam contributed to his singular sound. Mark de Clive-Lowe and the band bring Sanders's compositions back into view using their 21st-century voices. The project is [available](#) as a two-album or two-CD package and the usual streaming platforms. The group will perform the music live on July 16th at 2220 Arts in Los Angeles. [Tickets](#) are on sale now. They will also have a limited supply of vinyl albums on sale that night.

[Freedom – Celebrating the Music of Pharoah Sanders by Mark de Clive-Lowe](#)