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THE TD TORONTO JAZZ FESTIVAL IS MOVING TO YORKVILLE AND REOPENS THE LEGENDARY CONCERT HALL

TORONTO – The **TD Toronto Jazz Festival** is excited to announce it will be moving to Yorkville when it kicks off this summer from **June 23 – July 2nd, 2017**. Yorkville will play host to over 100 free concerts across 10 days from noon-10 p.m., with Multi Grammy award-winner **Aaron Neville** launching the new Festival footprint with a free performance on **Saturday, June 24**. The Festival will also be reopening and reviving the iconic **Concert Hall** (formerly the Masonic Temple), helping to reintroduce the historic venue as a music hall with shows every night. The Concert Hall is known for having hosted Led Zeppelin’s first Toronto concert in 1969 and as a favoured rehearsal space for the Rolling Stones.

“Yorkville housed one of the most vibrant scenes in North America during the 1960s and 1970s and the Jazz Festival is excited to bring the music back to the area” states **Chief Executive Officer Howard Kerbel**. “For a brief period in the Festival’s history, we had concerts in the Yorkville and we are excited to once again embrace the area’s rich musical legacy with a whole new Festival Village footprint.”

One of the most influential times in Canada’s music history saw 1960s Yorkville house an explosion of talent in artists, poets and musicians who would go on to great acclaim – Neil Young, Gordon Lightfoot, James Taylor, Joni Mitchell, Randy Bachman, Buffy Sainte Marie and Carly Simon to name a few. Toronto’s indie scene rivalled that of San Francisco’s Haight Ashbury and was a pivotal moment in time for so many as the counterculture movement began to dominate.

To help honour that legacy and kick off the TD Toronto Jazz Festival, Canadian icon, **Randy Bachman**, will perform a selection of his greatest hits with some very special guests at the **Concert Hall** on opening night, **Friday, June 23**. **PRICING**

Some of the most legendary bands and musicians to ever come through the city have played The Concert Hall. From the Grateful Dead to Frank Sinatra, Chuck Berry to Iggy Pop, The Concert Hall is once again set to return as a concert venue and the Jazz Festival is excited to help usher in the next phase. “For more than 40 years, The Concert Hall has had some of the biggest names in music come through our doors,” states **William Russell, Executive Director of 888Yonge Inc.** “We are excited to partner with the TD Toronto Jazz Festival and reintroduce this historic venue to a new generation of music lovers.”

For eight incredible nights, The Concert Hall will host the TD Toronto Jazz Festival with a diverse lineup that will showcase the strong traditions of jazz, including the many sounds and influences that continue to help push the genre forward. **Tickets for The Concert Hall series go on sale May 4 at Ticketpro.ca or by calling 1.888.655.9090. Please visit torontojazz.com in early June for all program details and for a copy of our Yorkville map.**

The Concert Hall Lineup

[Friday, June 23 | Randy Bachman](#)

Widely regarded as the architect of Canadian rock 'n' roll, **Randy Bachman** co-founded two of music's most iconic groups - The Guess Who and Bachman Turner Overdrive. With classics such as "These Eyes," "Taking Care of Business," and "You Ain't Seen Nothing Yet," they have become pop culture touchstones. To kick off the Festival, Bachman will pay tribute to Yorkville's musical legacy with some of his greatest hits and some share the spotlight with some very special guests.

[Saturday, June 24 | ACS: Allen, Carrington, Spalding](#)

Made up of three of the most important women in contemporary jazz, **Geri Allen** (piano), **Terri Lyne Carrington** (drums) and **Esperanza Spalding** (bass, voice) make a rare appearance this summer, performing a mix of jazz standards and original compositions.

Sunday, June 25 | TBA

[Tuesday, June 27 | Robert Glasper Experiment | Kandace Springs opens](#)

Grammy Award winner and fan favourite since his first Festival appearance in 2012, **Robert Glasper** is back with his Experiment after a much heralded and successful 2016 – Glasper was the composer and soundtrack producer for the Miles Davis biopic *Miles Ahead*, and released the Experiment's latest album, *ArtScience* last fall which Pitchfork called the group's most realized effort.

Stunning audiences with her Festival debut last summer, singer, songwriter and pianist **Kandace Springs** makes a return appearance with a stunning voice that Prince once said "could melt snow." Blending soul, jazz and pop, Springs has the "rare ability that can't be taught – to sound like an old soul, just doing what come naturally" (The Guardian).

[Wednesday, June 28 | Shabaka & The Ancestors | Donny McCaslin Group](#)

This special night brings together two of the most exciting jazz saxophonists on the international jazz scene.

The **Donny McCaslin Group** earned acclaim as the backing band for David Bowie's final – and much lauded – album *Blackstar*. Joined by **Jason Lindner** (keys), **Nate Wood** (bass) and **Mark Guiliana** (drums), the Group will perform music from their latest release, *Beyond Now*; an album inspired by and dedicated to the legendary alt-pop innovator.

Described as "pulsing, exploratory and vibrant" by The Guardian, **Shabaka and the Ancestors** make their Toronto debut. Drawing from South Africa's musical heritage and incorporating Sun Ra in the mix, they create a unique style self-described as Afro-futurism. Led by acclaimed tenor saxophonist Shabaka Hutchings, the group earned rave reviews for their performances at the 2017 Winter Jazzfest in New York this past January.

[Thursday, June 29 | John LaBarbera Big Band "Celebrating Buddy Rich"](#)

Pulling out all the stops, Toronto jazz veteran **Pat LaBarbera**, along with his brothers John and Joe, will assemble a big band celebrating the 100th anniversary of Buddy Rich. John contributed more compositions and arrangements to Buddy's band than any other writer; Joe was the only drummer – other than Buddy – to ever perform publicly with the band; and Pat played tenor sax in Buddy's band for seven years. This will be one very special night of high energy and musicality befitting the "World's Greatest Drummer," Buddy Rich.

[Friday, June 30 | Bokante | Larnell Lewis Band opens](#)

From the creative mind of bassist **Michael League** – founder of the Grammy Award winning group Snarky Puppy – comes **Bokante**, a multi-lingual, multi-cultural and multi-generational ensemble featuring top musicians from a variety of musical styles: two-time Grammy award-winning guitarists Michael League, **Chris McQueen**, and **Bob Lanzetti** (all from Snarky Puppy), percussion legend **Jamey Haddad** (Paul Simon, Sting), pedal and lap steel virtuoso **Roosevelt Collier** (Lee Boys, Karl Denson), and percussionists **André Ferrari** (Väsen) and **Keita Ogawa** (Banda Magda, Yo-Yo Ma). Lead vocals are handled by Guadeloupe-born, Montreal-based (and Snarky Puppy collaborator) **Malika Tirolien** – singing in Creole. This performance will be Bokante's Toronto debut.

Opening up is the **Larnell Lewis Band**, led by **Larnell Lewis** who, at age 33, has toured internationally with Snarky Puppy, performed with the likes of Fred Hammond and Lalah Hathaway, has graced the cover of *Modern Drummer* magazine and earned a spot on the faculty of the acclaimed Humber College in Toronto. The Band is celebrating their soon-to-be-released debut album.

[Sunday, July 2 | 4 By Monk By 4](#)

To celebrate the 100th anniversary of the birth of **Thelonious Monk**, four outstanding pianists – spanning three generations – come together to perform on two pianos. Over the course of the evening, **Kenny Barron**, named in 2010 a National Endowment for the Arts Jazz Master; **Benny Green**, an alumnus of Art Blakey's Jazz Messengers; **Gerald Clayton**, Musical Director of the Monterey Jazz Festival On Tour; and **Cyrus Chestnut**, a first call pianist for Betty Carter and Wynton Marsalis (among others), will perform solos, duos and together as a quartet, all in honour of Monk.

One of the premiere jazz festivals in North America, the TD Toronto Jazz Festival celebrates its 31st edition when it runs from June 23 – July 2, 2017. With more than 1,500 musicians performing, the Festival has something for every music lover. From emerging artists to established musicians, jazz legends to undiscovered gems, the TD Toronto Jazz Festival showcases the very best in jazz this summer!

For more information, visit www.torontojazz.com and follow us on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#) and [Instagram](#).

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