

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**THE JAZZSCHOOL COMMUNITY MUSIC SCHOOL
ANNOUNCES
APRIL CONCERTS & PUBLIC PROGRAMS**



March 25, 2026, Berkeley, California — The Jazzschool Community Music School in Berkeley, CA announces a full calendar of concerts, workshops, and free public programs in April. The monthlong **PianoLove Festival** comprises five Saturday concerts celebrating the dazzling scope of jazz piano artistry in the region. Current faculty and students, alumni of the school, and invited local luminaries present concerts ranging from innovative original works to beloved standard repertoire, dynamic free improvisation, and tributes to keyboard heroes Herbie Hancock and Thelonious Monk. The concerts feature **Erika Oba/Ruthie Dineen** (Apr. 4); **Glen Pearson** (Apr. 11); **The Jazzschool Faculty All-Stars led by Colin Hogan** (Apr.18); **Myra Melford** (Apr. 25); and a **MonkMarathon** (Apr. 25) community celebration hosted by **Ben Stolorow**.

The **Brown Bag Jazz Hangs** series continues every Wednesday at 12:30pm, inviting Downtown Berkeley neighbors, colleagues, students, and employees for free casual Brown Bag presentations and listening sessions by local jazz luminaries. April presenters are **Ami Molinelli** (Apr. 1); **David Boyce** (Apr. 8); **Marcus Shelby** (Apr. 15); **Nora Free** (Apr. 22); and **Scott Amendola** (Apr. 29). The monthly free masterclass series **The B3 Sessions**, is presented in collaboration with the Jazz Organ Fellowship and this month features organist **David Jackson** on Sunday April 19 at 4pm.

The Jazzschool's weekly **Jupiter Jam Session** commences after a winter hiatus on Wednesday April 15 from 7-10pm in the outdoor courtyard at Jupiter, 2181 Shattuck

Ave. Berkeley. Co-hosted by faculty members **Erik Jekabson** and **Remee Ashley** with a professional house band, the session is open to all players, and admission is free. The **Youth Jazz Jam Session** (Sun Apr. 5, 4-6pm) gives young musicians a platform for honing their craft on the first Sundays of the month, led by a rotating cast of Jazzschool faculty members and offered free of charge at the school's Hardyman Hall. In addition, a monthly **Vocal Open Mic** hosted at the school by **Angharad Jones** invites vocalists to sing with a professional rhythm section, on the last Sunday of every month (Sun Apr. 26, 4-7pm; tickets \$20).

Additional concerts in April include the monthly performance by the Jazzschool's composers big band-in-residence, the **Electric Squeezebox Orchestra**, led by **Erik Jekabson** (Sun Apr. 12, 5:30pm; tickets \$25); and a **Tribute to Henry Mancini** by the 18-piece father-and-son-led **Luca & Lucca Orchestra** (Fri. Apr. 17, 8pm; tickets \$25).

Free Programs and Community Events

Brown Bag Jazz Hangs - Wednesdays in April at 12:30pm

The Brown Bag Jazz Hangs series at lunchtime on Wednesdays invites Downtown Berkeley neighbors, colleagues, students, and employees for free casual presentations and listening sessions by local jazz luminaries. Patrons are invited to bring their own lunch or order ahead from the JazzCaffè across the street at 2040 Addison Street.

April events in the series:

April 1: Ami Molinelli on Bossa Nova and Beyond

April 8: David Boyce on Sun Ra & Synths

April 15: Marcus Shelby on Charles Mingus

April 22: Nora Free on Geri Allen

April 29: Scott Amendola on Jack DeJohnette

The B3 Sessions - Monthly on Sundays from January–June

The B3 Sessions is a free monthly masterclass series co-presented with the Jazz Organ Fellowship, that features six of the world's greatest Hammond B3 organists in informal masterclasses. Guest artists talk, demonstrate B3 technique, play musical selections, and answer questions from the audience.

Upcoming events in the series:

Sun. April 19, 4pm: David Jackson

Sun. May 17, 4pm: Roger Smith

Sun. June 7, 4pm: Sylvester Burks

April Concerts

PianoLove: Erika Oba Trio + Ruthie Dineen's RDL+

Saturday, April 4, 8pm / pre-concert talk at 7:30pm

Tickets \$25 general / \$15 youth

Double bill! Jazzschool alums and creative forces in the Bay Area jazz community, pianists Erika Oba and Ruthie Dineen return to present original projects that showcase their gorgeous compositions and keen improvisational prowess. Oba's music draws on influences ranging from Thelonious Monk to Okinawan folk song, navigating from swinging bebop to classically influenced, through-composed pieces. Dineen brings her collective trio RDL+, co-led with bassist Doug Lee, and featuring Puerto Rican cuatro player Pedro Pastrana. Here, exploratory original compositions showcase the group's warm acoustic sound that bridges jazz with Caribbean and Latin rhythms.

PianoLove: Glen Pearson's Testament Quintet

Saturday April 11, 8pm / pre-concert talk at 7:30pm

Tickets \$25 general / \$15 youth

Veteran Oakland pianist and Bay Area treasure Glen Pearson—winner of a 2024 Grammy Award for his work with the Count Basie Orchestra—brings his hard swinging quintet to the Jazzschool for a night of jazz standards and original tunes. Pearson has brought sensitivity and expression to a wide range of musical situations, from Broadway to television, radio, and in the recording studio. He has worked closely with Regina Belle, Jimmy Scott, Dianne Reeves, Marlena Shaw, Bobby Hutcherson, Delfeayo Marsalis, and James Moody, among others. A committed educator, when he is not touring with the Basie band Pearson is Chair of the Music Department at the College of Alameda.

The Electric Squeezebox Orchestra

Sunday, April 12, 5:30pm

Tickets \$25 general / \$15 youth

The Electric Squeezebox Orchestra is the Bay Area's own 17-piece big band, led by trumpeter Erik Jekabson, playing music composed and arranged by its members. The

composers and arrangers, some of the very best in the Bay, draw from a wide variety of influences but always come up with powerful music with groove, beauty and subtlety. The band plays every second Sunday at the Jazzschool, and has collaborated with a number of special guest artists, including John Santos, Kenny Washington, Alan Ferber, Dayna Stephens, Mads Tolling, Sandy Cressman, Kellye Gray, Avotcja and Ben Goldberg.

The Luca & Lucca Orchestra directed by Daniel Parenti:

A Tribute to Henry Mancini

Friday April 17, 8pm

Tickets \$25 general / \$15 youth

The father and son creative team of bassist Daniel Parenti and drummer Luca Parenti celebrate the kaleidoscopic musical world of composer Henry Mancini in this large ensemble tribute concert. The performance includes highlights from Mancini's iconic scores for film and television, including The Pink Panther series, Charade, Breakfast at Tiffany's, Days of Wine and Roses, Peter Gunn, and Newhart.

PianoLove: Jazzschool Faculty All-Stars play Herbie Hancock's *Speak Like a Child*

featuring Colin Hogan, Erik Jekabson, Chloe Scott Jones, Remea Ashley, Daniel Parenti, Sheldon Alexander + opening set by the Jazzschool Advanced High School Workshop

Saturday April 18, 8pm

Tickets \$25 general / \$15 youth

Colin Hogan assembles an all-star Jazzschool faculty ensemble to play Herbie Hancock's seminal record, *Speak Like a Child* in celebration of the school's monthlong PianoLove festival. Released on the Blue Note label in 1968, the record features luscious orchestrations by Thad Jones for the unusual ensemble of flute, flugelhorn, bass trombone, and rhythm section. A followup to his acclaimed *Maiden Voyage* release, Hancock's compositions explore lyrical melodies, deep swing, and rock-infused propulsiveness.

PianoLove: Myra Melford Solo

Saturday April 25, 8pm /pre-concert talk at 7:30pm

Tickets \$25 general / \$15 youth

A rare solo concert by internationally-acclaimed pianist, improviser, and composer Myra Melford! A Berkeley resident for the past 20 years, Melford is a professor of Music at UC Berkeley and tours the world with her celebrated ensembles that showcase her breathtaking improvisational prowess and inventive original music. Expect music by some of Melford's musical heroes and associates, dynamic original compositions, and freshly improvised creations.

MonkMarathon PianoLove FINALE

hosted by the **Ben Stolorow Trio**

Saturday April 25, 9-11pm

Tickets \$10 general

To conclude the Jazzschool's monthlong PianoLove celebration, faculty pianist Ben Stolorow hosts a 2-hour MonkMarathon finale—all Thelonious Monk music!—with faculty, students, and special guests from the Bay Area music community taking turns to play favorite tunes by one of jazz music's most iconic and admired pianist/composers.

About the Jazzschool

The Jazzschool, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization, was founded in Berkeley in 1997 and provides music education and performance opportunities for people of all ages and abilities. Consisting of the Adult Music Program and the Young Musicians Program, the Jazzschool operates year-round on a quarterly basis, offering an array of courses, ensembles, performance opportunities, and workshops to build all aspects of musicianship. Students are frequently featured in concert performances, free to the public. With a formidable faculty of renowned musicians and educators, the Jazzschool is a cornerstone of the Bay Area's thriving jazz community.

TICKETS

Tickets are available at jazzschool.org and at the door for concerts. Online advance registration is suggested but not required for free events.

INFORMATION

The Jazzschool is located at 2087 Addison St. in Downtown Berkeley. Street metered parking is available. Additional parking is available at the Center Street Parking Garage, located at 2025 Center Street, Berkeley. The Jazzschool's facility is fully ADA-compliant

and accessible to people with physical disabilities. Visit jazzschool.org or call 510-845-5373 for more information.

CALENDAR EDITORS PLEASE NOTE

Brown Bag Jazz Hangs: Ami Molinelli on Bossa Nova and Beyond

Date: Wednesday, April 1, 2026

Time: Doors 12:00 PM | Event 12:30 PM

Price: FREE

URL:

concerts.jazzschool.org/free-brown-bag-jazz-hangs-ami-molinelli-on-bossa-nova-and-beyond

PianoLove: Erika Oba Trio + Ruthie Dineen's RDL+

Date: Saturday, April 4, 2026

Time: Doors 7:00 PM | Event 8:00 PM

Price: \$25/\$15

URL: concerts.jazzschool.org/pianolove-erika-oba-trio-ruthie-dineens-rdl

Youth Jazz Jam Session

Date: Sunday, April 5, 2026

Time: 4:00 PM – 6:00 PM

Price: \$0

URL: concerts.jazzschool.org/free-youth-jazz-jam-2

Brown Bag Jazz Hangs: David Boyce on Sun Ra & Synths

Date: Wednesday, April 8, 2026

Time: Doors 12:00 PM | Event 12:30 PM

Price: FREE

URL: concerts.jazzschool.org

PianoLove: Glen Pearson's Testament Quintet

Date: Saturday, April 11, 2026

Time: Doors 7:00 PM | Event 8:00 PM

Price: \$25/\$15

URL: concerts.jazzschool.org/pianolove-glen-pearsons-testament-quintet

Electric Squeezebox Orchestra

Date: Sunday, April 12, 2026

Time: Event 5:30 PM

Price: \$25/\$15

URL: concerts.jazzschool.org/electric-squeezebox-orchestra-3

Brown Bag Jazz Hangs: Marcus Shelby on Charles Mingus

Date: Wednesday, April 15, 2026

Time: Doors 12:00 PM | Event 12:30 PM

Price: FREE

URL: concerts.jazzschool.org

Jazzschool Jazz Jam at Jupiter

Date: Wednesday, April 15, 2026

Time: 7:00 PM – 10:00 PM

Price: \$0

URL: concerts.jazzschool.org/jazz-jams-at-jupiter

The Luca & Lucca Orchestra directed by Daniel Parenti: A Tribute to Henry Mancini

Date: Friday, April 17, 2026

Time: Doors 7:30 PM | Event 8:00 PM

Price: \$25/\$15

URL:

concerts.jazzschool.org/the-luca-lucca-orchestra-directed-by-daniel-parenti-a-tribute-to-henry-mancini

PianoLove: Jazzschool Faculty All-Stars play Herbie Hancock's *Speak Like a Child*

Date: Saturday, April 18, 2026

Time: Doors 7:30 PM | Event 8:00 PM

Price: \$25/\$15

URL:

concerts.jazzschool.org/pianolove-jazzschool-faculty-all-stars-play-herbie-hancocks-speak-like-a-child

The B3 Sessions with David Jackson

Date: Sunday, April 19, 2026

Time: Event 4:00 PM

Price: FREE

URL: jazzschool.org/community-programs/event/the-b3-sessions-with-david-jackson

Brown Bag Jazz Hangs: Nora Free on Geri Allen

Date: Wednesday, April 22, 2026

Time: Doors 12:00 PM | Event 12:30 PM

Price: FREE

URL: concerts.jazzschool.org

Jazzschool Jazz Jam at Jupiter

Date: Wednesday, April 22, 2026

Time: 7:00 PM – 10:00 PM

Price: \$0

URL: concerts.jazzschool.org/jazz-jams-at-jupiter

PianoLove: Myra Melford Solo

Date: Saturday, April 25, 2026

Time: Doors 7:00 PM | Event 8:00 PM

Price: \$25/\$15

URL: concerts.jazzschool.org/pianolove-myra-melford-solo

***Monk*Marathon PianoLove Finale**

Date: Saturday, April 25, 2026

Time: 9:00 PM – 11:00 PM

Price: \$10

URL: concerts.jazzschool.org/monkmarathon-pianolove-finale

Vocal Open Mic

Date: Sunday, April 26, 2026

Time: 4:00 PM – 7:00 PM

Price: \$20

URL: concerts.jazzschool.org/vocal-open-mic-2

Brown Bag Jazz Hangs: Scott Amendola on Jack DeJohnette

Date: Wednesday, April 29, 2026

Time: Doors 12:00 PM | Event 12:30 PM

Price: FREE

URL: concerts.jazzschool.org

Jazzschool Jazz Jam at Jupiter

Date: Wednesday, April 29, 2026

Time: 7:00 PM – 10:00 PM

Price: FREE

URL: concerts.jazzschool.org/jazz-jams-at-jupiter

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