

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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



**June events include Pride Month concerts and a film screening;
concerts showcasing students in the Young Musicians Program;
Free Lunchtime Brown Bag talks presented in partnership with The Freight,
and more**

**Berkeley High School Freshman Jesse Ashlock is the recipient of the
21st Annual Dick Conte Jazz Piano Scholarship**

**Two Jazzschool student ensembles win awards in the
2026 *Downbeat* Student Music Awards**

June 1, 2026, Berkeley, California — The Jazzschool Community Music School in Berkeley, CA announces a full calendar of concerts, workshops, and free public programs in June. The school celebrates Pride Month with three events: **Eli Maliwan's Saxreligious Quintet** performs on Saturday June 20 at 8pm; and **Oddity, Marlonius and other musicians from Oakland's FAGJAZZ Collective** present *The Strayhorn Sessions* on Saturday June 27 at 8pm. Both concerts are at the Jazzschool and admission is \$25 general/\$15 youth. In addition, a free screening of the documentary *No Ordinary Man: The Billy Tipton Documentary* (2020), an in-depth look at the life of jazz musician & trans culture icon, takes place on Thursday, June 18 at 7pm.

Several multigenerational June performances showcase student musicians in the **Jazzschool's Young Musicians Program**. Jazzschool instructor **Josh Jones** leads his Latin Quintet for a concert

on Saturday, June 6, with the Jazzschool High School Combo led by **Max Brody** playing an opening set. Jones' daughter, **Sadie Jones**, plays bass in the high school ensemble and graduates from the program this spring to pursue music studies at San Jose State University. On Thursday June 11, at 7pm, the Jazzschool Advanced High School Jazz Workshop plays a set offsite at Mr. Tipples Recording Studio in San Francisco, opening for the ensemble's instructor, pianist **Peter Horvath** who leads his own group for a 8:45pm set that night. Tickets are available at mrtipplessf.com. Finally, the 21st Annual **Dick Conte Jazz Piano Benefit Scholarship Concert** on Saturday June 13 at 8pm features a performance by Conte's quartet and honoring this year's scholarship recipient, Berkeley High School freshman **Jesse Ashlock**.

Two of the Jazzschool's Young Musicians Program youth ensembles were recognized by *Downbeat* magazine with awards in the May 2026 *Student Music Awards* issue: **Max Roston-Saul** won Best Original Composition for Large Ensemble, mentored by Dave Eshelman; and the **Advanced High School Jazz Workshop I** directed by **Peter Horvath** won Best Small Jazz Combo.

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. The summer series is co-presented with The Freight. June presenters are **Pedro Pastrana** (June 3); UC Berkeley Music Dept grad **Grace Basom** (June 10); **PC Muñoz** (June 17 at The Freight); and UC Berkeley Music Dept grad **Julius Zimmerman** (June 24, at The Freight). The monthly free masterclass series **The B3 Sessions**, presented in collaboration with the Jazz Organ Fellowship, concludes with a presentation by organist **Sylvester Burks** on Sunday, June 7 at 4pm.

New this month, on Fridays in June from 9:30–11pm, the Jazzschool welcomes listeners to an **After-Hours Tea Lounge**, where patrons of nearby restaurants, venues, and theaters are invited to gather over tea and sweets while Jazzschool faculty and staff spin jazz vinyl favorites. Admission is free, with snacks available for purchase.

The Jazzschool's weekly **Jupiter Jam Session** continues every Wednesday 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. 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. June 28, 4-7pm; tickets \$20). In addition, the Jazzschool is a venue for the free citywide **Make Music Berkeley** festival on Sunday, June 21—more info at makemusicday.org/berkeley.

Additional events in June include the monthly performance by the Jazzschool's composers big band-in-residence, the **Electric Squeezebox Orchestra**, led by **Erik Jekabson** and featuring resident poet **Avotcja** (Sun June 14, 5:30pm; tickets \$25 General / \$15 Youth); and a free Monday night workshops series, **Life Skills for Independent Musicians**, led by Jazzschool Executive Director Lisa Mezzacappa (June 8, 15, 22, 29, 6:30-8pm).

Community Events and Free Programs

Brown Bag Jazz Hangs - Wednesdays in June at 12:30pm; Admission Free

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. The summer series is co-presented with The Freight.

June 3: Pedro Pastrana — *on Puerto Rican Jazz*

June 10: Cal Music Grads Report From the Field! Grace Basom on *Practicing Free Improvisation*

June 17 @ The Freight: PC Muñoz — *on Free Jazz Drum Heroes*

June 24 @ The Freight: Cal Music Grads Report From the Field! Julius Zimmerman on *Moroccan Gnawa & The Blues*

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.

Oakland organ player **Sylvester Burks** leads the final event in the series on **Sun. June 7 at 4pm.**

New! After-Hours Tea Lounge Fridays in June, 9:30–11pm (FREE)

Patrons of nearby venues, theaters, and restaurants are invited to gather over tea and sweets while Jazzschool faculty and staff spin jazz vinyl favorites. Snacks available for purchase.

Jazz PRIDE! Concert & Film Series

Sat, June 20, 8pm / 7:30pm pre-concert talk

Tickets \$25 general/\$15 youth

Jazz PRIDE! Eli Maliwan's Saxreligious Quintet

Eli Maliwan, *saxophone and FX*

Rob Finucane, *synth*

Vida Sánchez, *synth bass*

Gabi Aldaz, *piano*

JC Grady, *drums*

In celebration of Pride Month, Bay Area saxophonist and composer Eli Maliwan presents a live quintet version of his astounding solo debut *Elysia Marginata*, which explores video-game inspired cinematic composition from a “jazz nerd” lens. Maliwan’s Saxreligious Quintet reinterprets the multitracked studio album, where electronic experimental sounds are blended with complex harmony, odd meters, improvisation, and satirical song titles, for a live context that invites improvisation and ensemble interplay. Maliwan is a transgender Asian American whose goal is to be the representation he needed as a younger artist, and he often writes music that examines and celebrates his intersecting identities.

During the pandemic, Maliwan began focusing on composition and music production in Ableton software, and in recent years has been profoundly affected by the avalanche of anti-trans legislation and rising reports of violent anti-Asian sentiment in the US. The music of *Elysia Marginata* represents rebirth, growth, healing, and joy during a time of uncertainty and pain. It is a self care love letter to other quirky children of the 90’s, the queer and trans community, and the BIPOC community.

Sat, June 27, 8pm / 7:30pm pre-concert talk

Tickets \$25 general/\$15 youth

Jazz PRIDE! *The Strayhorn Sessions* feat. Oddity, Marlonius and others

Madelyn Liu, aka Oddity, *vocals and trombone*

Azuah, *vocals and guitar*

Eli Maliwan, aka Saxreligious, *saxophone and flute*

Gaby Aldaz, *keys*

Marlon Martinez, aka Marlonius, *acoustic bass*

JC Grady, *drums*

The Oakland-based musicians collective FAGJAZZ presents *The Strayhorn Sessions*, a deeply swinging and deeply felt tribute to the prolific composer and longtime Ellington collaborator, Billy

Strayhorn. For Pride Month, the collective celebrates the legacy and life of Strayhorn as a “beloved queer ancestor,” with lush arrangements of Strayhorn’s music by members Madelyn Liu (aka Oddity) and Marlon Martinez (aka Marlonius), featuring cinematic vocal and horn arrangements, and a grooving rhythm section. The evening also includes original compositions by members of the collective.

FAGJAZZ is a queer and trans POC-led collective based and founded in Oakland, created for Bay Area queer musicians and artists to connect, collaborate, and support each other. Beyond its record label and ensemble, the collective also hosts regular showcases, jams, workshops, and community hangs. The goal of the collective is to uphold the longstanding tradition of queer folks coming together to foster community and make great art.

Jazz Movie Night

Thu, June 18, 7pm (FREE)

Jazz PRIDE! *No Ordinary Man: The Billy Tipton Documentary* (2020)

No Ordinary Man is an in-depth look at the life of jazz musician & trans culture icon, Billy Tipton.

Beautiful and historically unrivaled, this groundbreaking film shows what is possible when a community collaborates to honor the legacy of an unlikely hero. Join us in the intimate Maxwell Lounge for free screenings of jazz documentaries—with popcorn!

Spotlight on the Jazzschool’s Young Musicians Program: Concerts

Sat, June 6, 8pm \$25 general/\$15 youth

Josh Jones Latin Quintet

opening set by Jazzschool High School Combo led by Max Brody

Josh Jones Latin Quintet

Chloe Scott Jones, flute

Danny Lubin-Laden, trombone

Erick Peralta, keys/bass

Josh Jones, drums

with special guest: Sadie Scott Jones, bass

Jazzschool High School Combo

Ellie Kim-Turnoff, clarinet

Ethan Shankman, trombone

Andres Navarro, guitar

Sadie Scott Jones, bass

Ilan Chu-gamez, piano

Lyra Renninger, drums

A mainstay of Bay Area Latin jazz for decades, drummer and bandleader Josh Jones brings his quintet to the Jazzschool for an evening of dynamic AfroCuban jazz, featuring music by legends Eddie Palmieri, Ray Barretto, Maraca, and more. The Jazzschool High School Combo led by Max Brody plays an opening set, and includes Jones' daughter Sadie on bass, who graduates from the program this spring.

Drummer and percussionist Josh Jones is recognized internationally from his touring and recording with such Jazz greats as Don Cherry, Steve Coleman, Omar Sosa, Yosvany Terry, and Jacqui Naylor. His recent recording projects include *We Are Not The Headliner* with Omar Sosa, *Then and Now* with Blue Note recording artist Benny Green, as well as a project with Cuban jazz royalty Chuchito Valdes. In addition to his robust performance career, Jones is a highly respected educator, and at the Jazzschool leads the ever-popular Adult Latin Big Band.

Thu, June 11, 7pm *at Mr. Tipples Recording Studio, SF (\$15–20)

OFFSITE: Peter Horvath Group + Advanced High School Jazz Workshop

Tickets: mrtipplessf.com

The Jazzschool Advanced High School Workshop I*

Sai Ray, trumpet

Victor Taraboukhine, tenor sax

Max Roston- Saul, piano

Levi Friedman, bass

Benjamin Gleason, drums

Peter Horvath Group

Peter Horvath, piano

Carl Schultz, tenor sax

Essiet Okon Essiet, bass

Jason Lewis, drums

**Winner of the 2026 Downbeat Student Music Award for Small Jazz Ensemble/Combo*

One of the Jazzschool's award-winning Advance High School Workshop ensembles plays a special offsite concert at the beloved jazz club Mr. Tipples Recording Studio in San Francisco to mark the end of the school year, when several members of the group graduate and leave for college. The student musicians play first at 7pm, and the second set at 8:45pm features a quartet led by their instructor, contemporary jazz pianist, composer and longtime Jazzschool faculty member Peter Horvath. Tickets are available via the Mr. Tipples website.

Peter Horvath has been perfecting his craft since the age of six when he began taking classical piano lessons. Born in Budapest, Hungary, he attended the Bela Bartok Conservatory of Music

before relocating to the US in 1983 and studied at the Berklee College of Music. He has since performed, recorded and toured nationally and worldwide with a long line of world-class artist, including jazz greats Bobby Hutcherson, Joe Henderson, Richie Cole, Ernie Watts, Eddie Henderson, Charles McPherson, Benny Maupin, Lenny White, Arturo Sandoval, Randy Brecker, Marcus Miller, Bob Mintzer, Bob Sheppard, Craig Handy, Ledisi, Keith Washington, and the Oakland Symphony.

Sat, June 13, 8pm \$25 general/\$15 youth
21st Annual Dick Conte Jazz Piano Benefit Scholarship Concert

Dick Conte, *piano*

Steve Heckman, *saxophone*

Steve Webber, *bass*

Jimmy Hobson, *drums*

Each year for 21 years, legendary Bay Area pianist and radio personality Dick Conte has returned to the Jazzschool on his birthday to host a benefit concert for the scholarship fund that bears his name. The evening features Conte's quartet, with the 2026 scholarship recipient joining the ensemble for a tune as part of the festivities. This year, we celebrate Young Musicians Program pianist Jesse Ashlock, who is a student at Berkeley High.

Dick Conte arrived in San Francisco in 1961 from his native Connecticut and has since become an integral part of the Bay Area jazz scene with his encyclopedic knowledge of jazz, formidable jazz radio presence (from the fabled KJAZ days to KCSM and KKSF), and his performances at clubs, festivals and private venues. He has played at the San Francisco Jazz Festival, the Russian River Jazz Festival, the San Jose Jazz Festival, the Sonoma Valley Jazz Festival, the Calistoga Jazz & Blues Festival, Jazz on the Hill, and the Cotati Jazz Festival.

Conte has opened for Cassandra Wilson, Tony Bennett, Eddie Harris, Mike Longo, and Doc Powell and has performed at Yoshi's, the Plush Room, Kimball's East, and the Bach Dancing & Dynamite Society, among many other local venues. He is a three-time nominee for Gavin Magazine's Jazz Broadcaster of the Year and winner of the AWRT Kudo Award for Best Radio Music Programming.

More June Concerts

The Electric Squeezebox Orchestra

Led by **Erik Jekabson** and featuring *resident poet Avotcja*

Sunday, June 14, 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.

Middle School Jazz Camp Student Performances

Fridays June 19 & 26, 6pm (FREE)

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.