

**BRIC**

# JAZZFEST

Oct 19 – 21, 2023

Welcome back to BRIC House for our ninth annual **BRIC JazzFest!** We're thrilled to present legends and rising stars from both inside and outside the jazz genre across three days and two stages at BRIC's cultural home in Downtown Brooklyn. This year, we're blending the worlds of jazz and Hip-Hop and celebrating some of our favorite genre-crossing artists. Plus, we're bringing you an extra special panel discussion and film series.

This year's carefully crafted lineup is curated by artist **Melanie Charles** along with BRIC Producer **Viviana Benitez** and Winter JazzFest Founder **Brice Rosenbloom**.

## THURSDAY, OCTOBER 19



### **Terrace Martin**

A three-time GRAMMY-nominated artist/producer/multi-instrumentalist from the Crenshaw District, Terrace Martin is renowned as being one of the top jazz musicians in the world and has become a creative engine at the epicenter of LA's progressive Hip-Hop scene. His noteworthy production has included major collaborations with Kendrick Lamar (good kid, M.A.A.D. city & the GRAMMY-winning To Pimp a Butterfly), Travis Scott, Stevie Wonder, Snoop Dogg, Herbie Hancock, and many other influential artists. Among the most versatile musicians and producers of his generation, Terrace's path is leading him in parallel with the greats including Quincy Jones and Dr. Dre, while also launching his vibrant, progressive, genre-crossing record label, Sounds of Crenshaw.



### **Melanie Charles / Orrin Evans Duo**

There are very few artists whose sound can capture the sentiments of a generation. The Brooklyn born and raised, Melanie Charles, is one of these artists. Over the past few decades, she has made a name for herself through dynamic engagements with jazz, soul, and R&B. Her bold genre-bending style has been embraced by a range of artists including Wynton Marsalis, SZA, Mach-Hommy, Gorillaz, and The Roots.



During his kaleidoscopic quarter-century as a professional jazz musician, pianist Orrin Evans has become the model of a fiercely independent artist who pushes the envelope in all directions. Never supported by a major label, Evans has ascended to top-of-the-pyramid stature on his instrument, as affirmed by his #1-ranking as "Rising Star Pianist" in the 2018 DownBeat Critics Poll. Grammy nominations for the Smoke Sessions albums *The Intangible Between* and *Presence*, by Evans' raucous, risk-friendly Captain Black Big Band, stamp his bona fides as a bandleader and composer. In addition to CBBB, Evans' multifarious leader and collaborative projects include the Eubanks Evans Experience (a duo with eminent guitarist Kevin

Eubanks); the Brazilian unit Terreno Comum; Evans' working trio with bassist Luques Curtis and drummer Mark Whitfield, Jr.; and Tar Baby (a collective trio of 20 years standing with bassist Eric Revis and drummer Nasheet Waits). One of Tar Baby's two 2022 releases will be released on Evans' imprint, Imani Records, which he founded in 2001 and relaunched in 2018.



### **Endea Owens and The Cookout**

Recording artist, bassist, and composer Endea Owens has a true passion for philanthropy and teaching. She has taught students across the United States, South America, and Europe. In 2020, Endea founded the Community Cookout, a non-profit organization birthed out of the Covid-19 pandemic that provides meals and music to underserved neighborhoods in New York City. To date, Endea's organization has helped feed close to 3,000 New Yorkers and has hosted over a dozen free music concerts.



### **Isaiah Collier**

Isaiah Collier is a Chicago/Brooklyn-based multi-instrumentalist, composer, arranger, curator, activist, motivational speaker and educator. Collier is most known for his work as a saxophonist, in addition to being a drummer. Collier's sound and approach is drawn from the influences of master saxophonists such as John Coltrane, Roscoe Mitchell, Wayne Shorter, Ari Brown and Gene Ammons. Collier has shared the stage with many musicians both locally and internationally such as Chance the Rapper, Lewis Nash, Wadada Leo Smith III, Antonio Hart, Junius Paul, James Carter, Rene Marie, Carl Allen, Paul Rogers, Bennie Maupin, Rudy Van Gelder, Angel Bat Dawid and many more.



### **Alexa Tarantino**

In the words of Wynton Marsalis, Alexa Tarantino is a “one-woman wrecking crew, [...] an indomitable force for expression, education, and absolute excellence.” Alexa tours worldwide with Cécile McLorin Salvant, Wynton Marsalis and the Jazz at Lincoln Center Orchestra, and the Alexa Tarantino Quartet. Her records (*Firefly*, *Clarity*, *Winds of Change*) and compositions have consistently topped jazz radio charts, and her discography includes 25+ released recordings as a leader and side woman. Tarantino is in-demand internationally as an energetic and impactful clinician, mentor, and coach and also represents Jazz at Lincoln Center as a visiting educator for various programs with students of all ages and levels. She holds a master’s degree in Jazz Studies from The Juilliard School and bachelor’s degrees in Jazz Saxophone Performance and Music Education with a certificate in Arts Leadership from the Eastman School of Music. Alexa is Founder and Artistic Director of the Cape Ann Jazz Workshop in Rockport, Massachusetts (est. 2014). Alexa Tarantino is a Vandoren Artist, a Yamaha Performing Artist, and endorses BAM Instrument Cases.



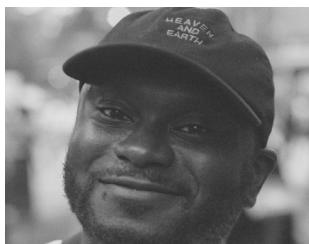
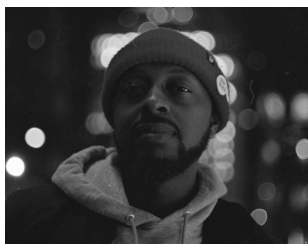
### **Panikkar Rosner & Leigh**

Panikkar Rosner & Leigh is a bebop and post bop centric jazz octet featuring 3 vocalists in the instrumental vocal style of Lambert Hendricks & Ross. What started as a improvisation group class at The New School for Jazz, under the tutelage of the great bassist Reggie Workman, has developed into a powerful ensemble that delivers a hi-octane performance that recognizes both the directions jazz can take when instruments and vocals are allowed to interact and the tradition of the music before.



Thursday, Oct. 19

# JAZZ & HIP-HOP PANEL



At 6:15PM, join us for special panel discussion exploring the intersection of Jazz & Hip-Hop, featuring BRIC JazzFest Artist Curator Melanie Charles (Make Jazz Trill Again); Marcus J. Moore (The New York Times); writer and culture worker Timmhotep Aku; and BRIC President Wes Jackson.

## FRIDAY, OCTOBER 20



### **Georgia Anne Muldrow**

The music of Georgia Anne Muldrow erases the boundaries between progressive soul, organic Hip-Hop, and avant-garde jazz. Part of a richly musical bloodline, Muldrow made her recorded debut in 2004 and became the first woman signed to the revered Stones Throw label, releasing her expansive first album, *Olesi: Fragments of an Earth*, two years later. By then, she was an integral player in Los Angeles' thriving underground scene of beatmakers, instrumentalists, singers, rappers, songwriters, and label operators. She has filled all of those roles with varied solo albums such as *Umsindo* (2009), *Seeds* (2012), and the Grammy-nominated *Overload* (2018), as well as the *Vweto* series (2011 to 2021). A keen collaborator, Muldrow has recorded a large volume of output with husband Dudley Perkins, including releases on their independent outlet SomeOthaShip, and has been featured on recordings by the likes of Sa-Ra, Erykah Badu, and Robert Glasper.



### **BIGYUKI**

Masayuki Hirano – better known as BIGYUKI – is a ground-breaking songwriter and virtuoso keyboard player who blends jazz, soul, Hip-Hop and electronica to create a sound that's wholly his own. Alongside releasing his own inimitable music, BIGYUKI is highly sought-after as a performer and collaborator by the likes of A Tribe Called Quest, Kamasi Washington, and Lauryn Hill.



### **Jonathan Michel: L'Ouverture**

L'Ouverture is a world premiere concert featuring Emeline Michel, Riva Precil and Val Jeanty with a program that will celebrate Haitian women and their vital role in Haitian music and culture. Inspired by the Haitian Revolution leader Toussaint L'Ouverture, the group embraces the meaning of its name, "The Opening," by inviting audiences to experience the essence of Haitian music and stories, while also connecting those from the 'motherland' who may be physically away to

keep Haïti in their hearts, minds, and actions. Established in 2012 by bassist, composer, and producer Jonathan Michel, L'Ouverture offers an exceptional program of original compositions and arrangements of Haitian and Black American songs. The group's repertoire highlights the deep connection between these two cultures, exploring both physical and spiritual aspects through music and movement. Born and raised in Waterbury, CT, Jonathan Michel's musical journey has been marked by remarkable achievements including four years as bassist and musical director for Grammy Award-winning vocalist Billy Paul and collaborations with esteemed musicians and groups like Orrin Evans, The Revive Da Live Big Band, ELEW, Godwin Louis, and Laurin Talese. He has worked with esteemed institutions such as Philadelphia's Clef Club of Jazz, Carnegie Hall, The State Department, and Experience Ayiti. As a producer, Jonathan has been involved in various projects, including his own debut album "MDR" released on Imani Records in 2018. Endorsed by Lakland Basses, Jonathan Michel's passion for music and dedication to cultural preservation continue to inspire and elevate the L'Ouverture collective, making it a profound force in celebrating and promoting Haitian music and culture.



### **Cisco Swank**

(Francisco Hays) is a multi-instrumentalist, vocalist, and producer from Brooklyn, NY. Cisco's critically acclaimed debut solo album "More Better" is a sprawling web of jazz, Hip-Hop, indie, and R&B that features the likes of Laura Elliott, Ambrose Akinmusire, Luke Titus and more. Praised as "a rising multi-hyphenate" by Okayplayer & i-D, and compared to the likes of MIKE and Earl Sweatshirt by *The New York Times*, Cisco is cementing his status as a major player in the modern intersection of Hip-Hop and jazz. While completing his studies at the prestigious Berklee College of Music, Cisco released the highly lauded collaborative album "Some Things Take Time" with Luke Titus in 2022 and has worked with a diverse roster of artists including Saba, Noname, Braxton Cook, Malaya, and Julius Rodriguez. "It's

just who he is. He is Black music. All of it. It's in every note." – Grammy-nominated trumpeter and collaborator Ambrose Akinmusire via *The New York Times*.



### **Strings N Skins**

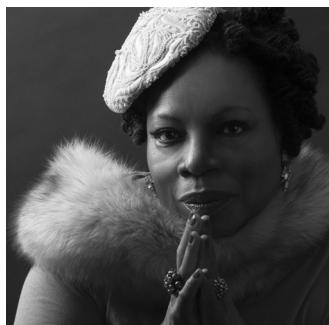
Influenced by their Caribbean and Latin American heritage, the group was founded in Brooklyn by Haitian vocalist and percussionist Okai and Colombian vocalist, dancer, and Latin Grammy Award Winning violinist, Luisa “Lulu” Bastidas. Strings N Skins mixes the acoustic vibrations of the drum and electronic jungle sounds of the violin, pairing their unparalleled sound with drummer and producer Lautaro Burgos and keyboard guru and producer Eric Lane. Strings N Skins has been recognized as one of the most distinct bands of New York City and gives a new twist to originality.



### **Los ALiENs**

Los ALiENs come from a place where their star radiates directly into their atmosphere creating an environment where hot grooves reproduce like viruses permeating their daily aural landscape. Los ALiENs create sonic explorations energized by rhythms sprouted in the tropics of this third planet, especially around northern South America and the Caribbean. In November 2022 they released on planet Earth their Long Play “Odd Subjects”. This funky-electric band is led by pianist/keyboardist and composer Ricardo Gallo and takes refuge in New York City where they have performed across the boroughs.

## SATURDAY, OCTOBER 21



### **Amina Claudine Myers Trio**

The Amina Claudine Myers Trio features Amina Claudine Myers, composer, pianist, organist, vocalist; Jerome Harris, electric bass, guitar, voice; and AACM member Reggie Nicholson, percussion. The Trio was created around 1981 in New York City. The musical path of Amina Claudine Myers spans from blues, gospel and country music to Rhythm & Blues, jazz, and Avantgarde. Coming from a rural area in Arkansas, Amina gained experience in piano playing, organ playing, and vocal music as well as composing, arranging, and leading. All musical styles are reflected in her compositions and the trio (with bass, guitar, and drums) is the backbone of her performances. Myers, Harris, and Nicholson blend their experience and creative excellence for a dynamic and warm sound.



### **B. Cool-Aid**

Rapper Pink Siifu and producer Ahwlee, who've recorded together as B. Cool-Aid since 2017, specialize in suave, crackly music that exists somewhere in between Butcher Brown's live-band jazz and A Tribe Called Quest-style boom-bap. Kicking off their upcoming album *Leather Blvd.*, their latest single is about keeping faith: "Everything's gonna turn around someday/Everything gonna make sense, let's pray," Siifu croons over a crisp drum pattern and bass. Halfway through, the beat stutters and wears down. The ghostly coos of Liv.e, Jimetta Rose, and V.C.R. waft behind a mellow, flatly-delivered verse from Maurice II, who is done listening to naysayers: "Somebody full of fear, somebody ain't/Minding their business, wanna talk about how I move." None of them know where the world is headed, but they're interested in holding onto what they have—their families, their resolve—and continuing to groove.



### **Miki Yamanaka “Origami” Project**

Japanese-born pianist Miki Yamanaka has called New York City home since 2012 and in the past decade has wasted no time establishing herself as one of the leading personalities of her generation on the piano and beyond. Critics laud her “light, expressive touch and solidly crafted, mainstream approach” – Mike Jurkovic (All About Jazz), while audiences delight in not only her playing, but her vibrant personality as well. Yamanaka has gained international recognition from her albums as a leader; her most recent and most intimate release, “Stairway to the Stars” (Outside In Music), features Jazz masters Mark Turner and Orlando le Fleming. Additionally, Miki has emerged as a leader of the “New York Scene” via her notable residencies at mainstay West Village sister clubs Smalls and Mezzrow.



### **Sarah Elizabeth Charles**

Sarah Elizabeth Charles is a vocalist/composer based in Brooklyn, NY. She has worked and studied with artists such as Chief Xian aTunde Adjuah, George Cables, Geri Allen and Sheila Jordan and has released three critically acclaimed albums with her band, SCOPE between 2012 and today. As the active vocalist in a number of bands (including SCOPE, Ajoyo, duo with Jarrett Cherner, Jesse Fischer and Chief Xian aTunde Adjuah). Charles has performed at many venues throughout her career. These have included The White House, Carnegie Hall, the first annual Culture Summit in Abu Dhabi, The Kennedy Center, the Rose Theatre with Jazz at Lincoln Center and many more. She has also had a commissioned composition performed at The National Gallery in Washington D.C. via The Canales Project “Hear Her Song” initiative.



### **Nite Bjugi feat. Candice Hoyes, Val Jeanty and Mimi Jones**

Nite Bjugi [pronounced Night Beauty] is a trio of Black women artists who weave multiple strands of storytelling using voice, bass, electro percussion, turntables, Haitian drums, dance and visual projections to rediscover the buried Diasporic beauty in the world, transcendent across generations. The name draws from a centuries old Haitian folklore called “Night Beauty,” about a girl whose bones begin to sing in her afterlife, her spirit seeking justice. On this eponymous album, singer/songwriter Candice Hoyes, bassist Mimi Jones, and GRAMMY® Award-winning soundchemist Val Jeanty publicly animate narratives centering Black women across time ranging in subject matter from vodoun, sisterhood, sexual expression, reproductive freedom, magic, and the politics of respectability with archival resources ranging from the letters of Zora Neale Hurston, to the iconic Kitchen Table Series by Carrie Mae Weems. Nite Bjugi, released July 28, 2023 via Whirlwind Recordings, taps into the transcendent communicative powers shared among the trio to delve into their individual journeys and the spiritual intimacies of Black life.



### **Trill Mega Jam Featuring The Jungle And Guests**

On October 21st, All Roads lead to the Trill Mega Jam where New York City's most notable jams and sessions of the past decade come together for one night to celebrate the scene's most brilliant musicians, MCs, and vocalists and close out the 9th annual BRIC JazzFest. Brooklyn's own THE JUNGLE PARTY will be our "modern Juke joint" for the night with resident DJ PUDGE and resident vocalist/pianist Zacchaeus Paul, culminating in a massive jam session featuring a rhythm section of Parker McCalister bass/MD, Chad Selph on keys, and Jaylen Petinaud (herbie Hancock) on Drums with guest appearances from J Hoard of The Lesson, Ray Angry of Producer Mondays, Nate Jones of Taste the stage, Casey Benjamin, Maurice Brown of The Free Nationals, Xiomara and Axel Laugart of the Cuban jam, and a rap cypher.

The Jungle is a collaboration of DJs, musicians, and artists bringing you a stimulating sonic experience of art and inspiration across the African Diaspora. The Jungle is a taste of global sounds, flavors, and feelings of the beautiful and expansive African Diaspora. Latin, Jazz, Afrobeat, Amapiano, Percussion, Brazilian, Caribbean, House, Soul, and more. The Jungle will close out BRIC JazzFest and lead the Trill Mega Jam. Welcome to The Jungle.

## THURSDAY OCTOBER 19, 2023

### TIMES

### GALLERY

### BALLROOM

6:15		
6:30	<b>HIP-HOP &amp; JAZZ PANEL 6:15PM – 6:55PM</b>	
6:45		
7:00		
7:15		
7:30	<b>ISAIAH COLLIER 7:15PM – 8:15PM</b>	
7:45		
8:00		<b>MELANIE CHARLES / ORRIN EVANS DUO 7:40PM – 8:40PM</b>
8:15		
8:30		
8:45		
9:00	<b>PANIKKAR ROSNER &amp; LEIGH 8:40PM – 9:40PM</b>	
9:15		<b>ENDEA OWENS AND THE COOKOUT 9:05PM – 10:05PM</b>
9:30		
9:45		
10:00		
10:15	<b>ALEXA TARANTINO 10:05PM – 11:05PM</b>	
10:30		
10:45		<b>TERRACE MARTIN 10:30PM – 11:40PM</b>
11:00		
11:15		
11:30		
11:45		

# FRIDAY OCTOBER 20, 2023

## TIMES

## GALLERY

## BALLROOM

7:15			
7:30	<b>STRINGS N SKINS 7:15PM – 8:15PM</b>		
7:45			
8:00		<b>Los ALiENS 7:40PM – 8:40PM</b>	
8:15			
8:30			
8:45	<b>CISCO SWANK 8:40PM – 9:40PM</b>		
9:00			
9:15			
9:30		<b>JONATHAN MICHEL: L'OUVERTURE 9:05PM – 10:05PM</b>	
9:45			
10:00	<b>BIGYUKI 10:05PM – 11:05PM</b>		
10:15			
10:30	<b>GEORGIA ANNE MULDROW 10:30PM – 11:40PM</b>		
10:45			
11:00			
11:15			
11:30			
11:45			

# **SATURDAY OCTOBER 21, 2023**

## **TIMES**

## **GALLERY**

## **BALLROOM**

7:15

7:30

7:45

8:00

8:15

8:30

8:45

9:00

9:15

9:30

9:45

10:00

10:15

10:30

10:45

11:00

11:15

11:30

11:45

12:00

12:15

12:30

12:45

1:00

1:15

1:30

**NITE BJUTI FEAT.  
CANDICE HOYES,  
VAL JEANTY AND  
MIMI JONES  
7:15PM – 8:15PM**

**MIKI YAMANAKA  
“ORIGAMI”  
PROJECT  
7:40PM –  
8:40PM**

**B. COOL-AID  
8:40PM –  
9:40PM**

**SARAH ELIZABETH  
CHARLES  
9:05PM –  
10:05PM**

**TRILL MEGA  
JAM FEATURING  
THE JUNGLE  
AND GUESTS  
10:05PM –  
1:30AM**

**AMINA  
CLAUDINE  
MYERS TRIO  
10:30PM –  
11:40PM**

# BRIC JAZZFEST

## Thank You To Our Sponsors

