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## **Celebrating Jazz Appreciation Month (JAM)**

**April 1- April 30, 2023**



***Live Music, Poetry & Visual Arts***  
**&**  
***Culminating April 30-#JAZZDAY***

*Presented by The Betsy Hotel ([thebetsyhotel.com](http://thebetsyhotel.com)) in Partnership with the Greater Miami and the Beaches Convention and Visitors Bureau, City of Miami Beach & Ocean Drive Association*

**FREE ADMISSION**

**Miami Beach, Florida — The Betsy's 11th Annual Overture to Overtown (OTO) Jazz Festival which will run for the entire month of April 2023 to coincide with Jazz Appreciation Month. The festival culminates on April 30<sup>th</sup> with special programming in commemoration of International Jazz Day. Community programming is a key element in honoring the legacy of Overtown as Miami's historic jazz mecca and with that in mind, the Betsy's robust lineup inside the Hotel will be augmented by curating and co-presenting events in Overtown, in the Miami Dade County Public Schools, at area colleges, and with the Ocean Drive Association in Lummus Park. The Betsy's 11th Annual Overture to Overtown Jazz Festival is co-produced by legacy jazz vocalist and businesswoman Carole Ann Taylor and Deborah Brigys, Betsy VP of Arts and Community Engagement.**

The Betsy's Annual Overture to Overtown Jazz Festival (OTO) celebrates the historic connections between South Florida jazz and the National historic jazz circuit which brought musicians who played in NYC's Harlem to The Harlem of the South (AKA Overtown) as they made their way from club to club – across the USA. In Overtown, stars like Count Basie, Ella Fitzgerald, Billie Holiday, Lena Horne, Louis Armstrong, and Josephine Baker not only performed but also spent the night because of segregation laws in Miami and Miami Beach. Unable to stay the night after a gig, they went “over town” to their hotels and stayed in hotels that were owned and operated by Black proprietors.

The talents of so many cultural ‘greats’ fostered such world-class entertainment venues in Overtown as the Lyric Theater, Knight Beat, and other clubs. Over the years, distinguished African American intellectuals also stayed there, including W.E.B. Dubois, author Zora Neale Hurston, and Supreme Court Justice Thurgood Marshall. Martin Luther King and Malcolm X frequented the area and so did Muhammed Ali, as did so many other great African American voices.

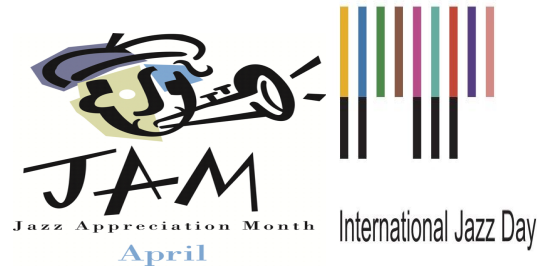
**Jazz Appreciation Month** was created by the Smithsonian National Museum of American History to recognize and celebrate the extraordinary heritage and history of jazz, which also includes special celebration of **UNESCO's International Jazz Day on April 30<sup>th</sup>**.

**Participating musicians/artists (as of March 25, 2023) for The Betsy's OTO 2023** Agustin Conti (Bass) - Allen Paul (piano) - Antuilo Mora (piano) - Arline Alvares (vocals) - Brian Murphy (piano) - Butterfly Vaughns (poet) - Carole Ann Taylor (vocals) - Charu Suri (piano) - Cindy Ellis (Vocals) - David Attelan (piano) - Danny Mixon (piano) - Edgar Pantoja (piano) - Gabriel Plácido Román (drums) Mikailo Kasha (bass) - Geoffrey Philp (poet) - Harvel Nakundi (drums) - Iggy Font and Jean Font (artists) - James Cagney (poet) - Jim Gasior (piano) - JJ Freire (Drums) - Julie Davis (vocals) - Julio Andrade (sax) - Vincent Dupont (Bass)- Lucas Apostoleris

(Drums)- Lucas Netto (saxophone)- Andre Perlman (Trombone)- Kayla Nicole (vocals) - Kelly Dow (Guitar) - LaVie (vocals) - LeNard Rutledge (vocals) - Leonard Reina (piano) - Lisanne Lyons (Vocals) - Markus Gottschlich (piano) Melton Mustafa Jr. (saxophone) - Nanami (vocals) - Nicole Yarling (violin/vocals) - Nikki Kidd (vocals) - Olegario Diaz (piano) - Pato Romero (Piano) - Ryan Ellis (piano) – Steven Scott (piano) - Tal Cohen (piano) - Tom Lippincott (Guitar) - Wendy Pedersen (Vocals)

**Participating venues** The Betsy Hotel (primary venue), Lummus Park in Miami Beach, Hampton Art Lovers in Overtown, Barry University in Miami Shores, Miami Dade County Public School sites.

**Sponsoring partners:** The Betsy-South Beach, The Betsy Community Fund at The Miami Foundation, The Plutzik Goldwasser Family Foundation, the Ocean Drive Association, City of Miami Beach, Greater Miami and the Beaches Convention and Visitors Bureau, Hampton Art Lovers, Barry University.



### ABOUT THE PRODUCERS

**Jazz singer Carole Ann Taylor** is known for her uplifting stage presence and a powerful way of interpreting songs. She's a driving force with an easy way - reflective of jazz's improvisatory freedom. Having sung with all of the greats early in her career, she returned to the stage just a few years ago, now with regular gigs throughout Miami and Miami Beach. In 2020, she co-produced a series called Zen and the Art of Overtown with The Betsy that featured jazz performers and thought leaders reflecting on the importance of Overtown in the history of American jazz. This is her third year as co-producer of The Betsy's annual Overture to Overtown Festival. She will perform on opening night both in Overtown and at The Betsy Hotel. Carole Ann is also the founder of MiamitoGo and serves on many civic boards, including the Adrienne Arsht Center for the Performing Arts, WDNA Jazz Radio and Viernes Culturales.

### Deborah PLUTZIK BRIGGS (OTO Founding Director and Co-Producer)

Deborah has had a 40 year career in community arts. She holds a doctoral degree in Music and Arts in Education from Columbia University, and an undergraduate degree in Vocal Performance and Literature from the Eastman School of Music. Deborah is the force behind The Betsy's global emergence as a luxury hotel with expansive programming that explores the links between literature, music, interdisciplinary arts and social justice. To that end, she is the curator of Live Jazz at the Betsy and The Betsy Writers Room (hosting over 1000 visiting artists to date), as well as the hotel's principal community engagement officer. Her family owns and operates The Betsy Hotel.

### ABOUT #JAZZATTHEBETSY

The Betsy's Jazz program is the longest continually running series of its kind in the region, featuring live performances 9 times a week – from 6 to 11 PM nightly, and from 11 AM to 4 PM weekends with a jazz performance space situated at a Steinway grand adjacent to LT Steak and Seafood. Featured performers define the diversity of jazz broadly, from traditional to fusion to multicultural and experimental – with a special focus on virtuoso jazz piano.

**ABOUT THE BETSY HOTEL - The Betsy-South Beach ([thebetsyhotel.com](http://thebetsyhotel.com))** is an award winning luxury boutique hotel located in the heart of the Art Deco District on Ocean Drive in Miami Beach, that celebrates arts and culture. <https://bit.ly/3C95W1Y>. The Betsy hosts jazz nine+ times weekly and offers programs in visual arts, literature, community arts, and classical music – all presented in the context of a luxurious curated stay, in an unrivaled ambience designed by Carmelina Santoro and Diamante Pedersoli contained in historic buildings designed by the Art Deco's greatest architects: L. Murray Dixon and Henry Hohaus. Owned and operated by the Plutzik Goldwasser Family, all public spaces are filled with works of art by award-winning global artists curated by co-owner Lesley Goldwasser.

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Festival line up on following page – as of March 24, 2023

4/1	11 AM to 4 PM	Tal Cohen, Solo Piano
4/1	6 PM to 12 AM	Carole Ann Taylor with the Jim Gasior Trio
4/2	11 AM to 4 PM	Brian Murphy, Solo Piano
4/2	<b>5:00 PM</b>	<b>Promenade Event - La Vie with Allen Paul</b>
4/2	6 to 11 PM	Edgar Pantoja Latin Duo
4/3	6 to 11 PM	David Attelan, Piano
4/4	6 to 11 PM	Leonard Reina, Piano
4/5	6 to 11 PM	Olegario Diaz, Piano
4/6	6 to 11 PM	Lisanne Lyons with Brian Murphy
4/7	6 PM to 12 AM	Charu Suri, Piano
4/8	11 AM to 4 PM	Charu Suri, Piano
4/8	6 PM to 12 AM	Leonard Rutledge with the Jim Gasior Trio
4/9	11 to 4 PM	Brian Murphy, Piano
4/9	<b>5:00 PM</b>	<b>Promenade Event - Markus Gottschlich</b>
4/9	6 to 11 PM	Edgar Pantoja Latin Jazz Duo
4/10	<b>11 AM</b>	<b>@ Barry University: James Cagney, Butterfly Vaughns, and Geoffrey Philp, Poetry Reading</b>
4/10	6 to 11 PM	David Attelan, Piano
4/11	6 to 11 PM	Tal Cohen, Piano
4.12	6 to 11 PM	Olegario Diaz, Piano
4/13	6 to 11 PM	Nanami with Jim Gasior
4/14	6 to midnight	Olegario Diaz, Piano
4/14	8 to 11 PM in Overtown	Nikki Kidd & Jim Berry W/ the Harvel Nakundi Collective- @ Hampton Art Lovers, hosted by Chris Norwood and Carole Ann Taylor
4/15	11 AM to 4 PM	Brian Murphy, Piano
4/15	6 PM to 12 AM	Gianini Bianccini, Piano/Vocals
4/16	11 AM to 4 PM	Tal Cohen, Piano
4/16	<b>5:00 PM</b>	<b>Promenade Event - Tal Cohen Quartet</b>
4/16	6 to 11 PM	Edgar Pantoja Latin Jazz Duo
4/17	6 to 11 PM	David Attelan, Piano
4/18	6 to 11 PM	Olegario Diaz, Piano
4/19	6 to 11 PM	Brian Murphy, Piano (With Kayla Nicole)
4.20	Mid-Day	Danny Mixon in The Miami Dade County Public Schools
4/20	6 to 11 PM	Cindy Ellis, Wendy Pedersen, and youth singers, with Ryan Ellis
4/20	9 til 9:30 PM	American SongBook Jazz on the Terrace by MB Classical Music Fest
4/20	7 to 11 PM	Overtown historical homage on the ORB, with Collaborative
4/21	6 to midnight	Tom Lippincott, Guitar Duo with Tal Cohen
4/21	8 to 11 PM in Overtown	Danny Mixon Trio with Carole Ann Taylor, Kayla Nicole, and Harvel Nakundi @ Hampton Art Lovers hosted by Chris Norwood and Carole Ann Taylor
4/22	11 AM to 4 PM	Leonard Reina, Piano
4/22	6 PM to 12 AM	Danny Mixon Trio
4/23	11 AM to 4 PM	Tal Cohen, Solo Piano
4/23	<b>5:00 PM</b>	<b>Promenade Event - Jim Gasior and Friends</b>
4/23	6 to 11 PM	Edgar Pantoja Latin Jazz Duo
4/24	6 to 11 PM	David Attelan, Piano
4/25	6 to 11 PM	Tal Cohen, Solo Piano
4/26	6 to 11 PM	Olegario Diaz, Piano
4/27	6 PM to 11 PM	Arlin Alvarez Vocal Duo with Antulio Mora
4/28	6 to midnight	Leonard Reina, Piano
4/29	11 AM to 4 PM	Brian Murphy, Piano
4/29	6 to 9 PM	Davis and Dow (Julie Davis and Kelly Dow)
4/29	9 to 12 AM	Nicole Yarling with house rhythm/band
4/30	11 AM to 4 PM	Pato Romero, Piano
4/30	<b>5:00 PM</b>	<b>Promenade Event - Melton Mustafa Jr. Quartet</b>
4/30	6 PM to 11 PM	Edgar Pantoja Latin Jazz Trio