

The Soraya's Jazz at Naz Festival
SOLD OUT — Clayton-Hamilton Jazz Orchestra featuring
Samara Joy—GRAMMY Award Winner Best New Artist
2023 and Best Jazz Vocal Album

Available for Streaming Starting at \$19 at www.thesoraya.org

Sat, Feb 11 at 8pm at The Soraya

(Los Angeles, CA) February 7, 2023 —In her first appearance after her double wins at this past Sunday's GRAMMY Awards, rising Jazz phenom Samara Joy's concert with the Clayton Hamilton Jazz Orchestra has sold out at The Soraya. Jazz fans eager to experience Ms. Joy's stunning vocals can still attend the concert, however, via the [Jazz at Naz](#) Festival livestream for just \$19!

Backstage at The Soraya's first Jazz at Naz Festival, Executive and Artistic Director Thor Steingraber spoke with John Clayton about a potential show with Ms. Joy. Clayton is the co-founder of the L.A. based Clayton-Hamilton Jazz Orchestra, which has been swinging for more than 36 years.

"In show business, there's nothing more gratifying than discovering an artist in the early stages of their development. Sometimes it feels like a gamble – when put to the test, "will they be as good as I think?" Honestly, the answer may be yes or no," Steingraber said.

"Regardless, we take chances in order to support young talent and to be a part of the thrill of developing a nascent career. In the case of Samara Joy, we engaged her about a year ago, before the recordings and Grammy nominations and her blossoming as a full-blown artist."

Ms. Joy, a deeply emotive vocalist, exploded onto the scene in 2019 at the age of 21—often surprising audiences with the power she packs and her "lighter than air" and "understated, swingy rhythm," (Kevin Whitehead, NPR). She won her first two GRAMMY® Awards, Best New Artist and Best Jazz Vocal Album, at the 65th Annual GRAMMY® Awards on February 5, 2023.

John Clayton, co-lead of the Clayton-Hamilton Jazz Orchestra, personally put together the arrangements that Ms. Joy will perform Saturday night.

“The songs that we’ve chosen to do with Samara stem from her recent recording, which is fantastic...I went to her and said ‘I love what you did on the album – would you mind if I take a few of those pieces and rework them so they would feature not only you with the small rhythm section you have on the recording, but with a full 19-piece jazz orchestra?’” Clayton said in a [recent interview with Steingraber](#).

“I’m going to make sure that she has a set that presents and reflects what she does. So not only is it going to be the big explosive orchestra-backed kind of things, but also some of the more intimate things.”

As Clayton mentioned in the interview, Jazz is a small, familial world—and Samara Joy is now no stranger to the Clayton family. Two of her latest singles “Can’t Get Out of This Mood (duo version)” and “Sweet Pumpkin (duo version)” feature Clayton’s son, Jazz Pianist and Composer Gerald Clayton.

Jazz at Naz tickets, Jazz Pass and Discover Jazz Virtual Pass are on sale now at www.TheSoraya.org. All concerts will be streamed for **Discover Jazz Virtual Pass** ticketholders.

About Jazz at Naz: 10 years of Jazz music at The Soraya

Long before The Soraya was built 10 years ago, the Cal State Northridge Jazz Department was a national standard bearer—winning awards and training the next generation of artists. When The Soraya opened in 2011, Northridge expanded its profile. Over the years, a nonstop procession of jazz greats has continued to perform at Cal State Northridge, in both The Soraya’s Great Hall and its innovative Jazz Club. **Jazz at Naz** is named in honor of Younes and Soraya Nazarian whose legacy gift to CSUN led to the renaming of the Performing Arts Center in 2017.

Streaming Jazz at Naz

Innovation in the face of COVID-19 paid in dividends—in the form of one of the first ever fully virtual music festivals, **Jazz at Naz**. Hosted virtually by accomplished jazz musician and educator **Reggie Quinerly**, Jazz at Naz was watched by more than 4,300 people when it launched in 2022 (more than two times the size of The Soraya’s 1,700-seat Great Hall!).

Quinerly ~~returns~~ **has returned in 2023** as The Soraya’s Jazz at Naz host of the 13-camera operation—conducting candid interviews with the musicians, engaging in banter with The Soraya’s Executive and Artistic Director **Thor Steingraber**, and shedding light on performances during each livestream.

Building upon the success of last year’s **Discover Jazz Virtual Pass** — 3,000 hours streamed! — The Soraya ~~will once again expand~~ **is once again expanding** the Jazz at Naz experience with in-depth interviews, and behind-the-scenes content **with online streaming. via our \$49 virtual pass.**

“CSUN has been for decades an important training ground for jazz musicians,” Steingraber said. “When The Soraya opened in 2011, the commitment to jazz in Northridge grew further. Now, with the addition of the second Jazz at Naz Festival, we can safely say that Northridge is an epicenter for jazz in Southern California.”

Purchasing Jazz at Naz Festival Tickets

Individual ticket prices start at \$36 for concerts on the Great Hall stage and \$49 for Jazz Club. Jazz Passes are available to all **five** **four** concerts. [Membership](#) to The Soraya is also available for additional discounts and benefits.

The **Discover Jazz Virtual Pass** is offered as an ad-on to any purchase for \$10, or for **\$39** to attend the festival completely virtually.

For more information visit <http://www.thesoraya.org/> or call the Ticket Office at (818) 677-3000. For ticket holds and interview requests, please contact The Soraya Communications Associate [Marie Estrada](#), or PR Consultant [Gary Murphy](#).

[ACCESS YOUR PRESS KIT HERE.](#)

Remaining Jazz at Naz Festival Performances

Wed, Feb 8 | 8PM | Jazz Club Onstage Sessions

Melissa Aldana Quartet

Melodic and haunting, Melissa Aldana conjures stories of longing, connection, and rebirth through music anchored in jazz traditions and open experimentation. Experience for yourself why critics regularly claim Aldana might be “the world’s next great tenor player” with a tone curiously capable of breaking free from tradition (Jazzwise). The first of our Jazz Club performances in the Jaz at Naz festival!

Fri, Feb 10 | 8PM | Jazz Club Onstage Sessions

Joel Ross ‘Parables’ Octet

The Parable of the Poet

Acclaimed vibraphonist and composer Joel Ross’s playing erupts through lush arrangements like “consistent currents of electricity” (Downbeat) in our second Jazz Club performance. Join his octet onstage for an intimate experience through the seven movements of Ross’s album The Parable of The Poet—described by many as an “absolute triumph.”

Sat, Feb 11 | 8PM | Jazz Club Onstage Sessions

The Clayton-Hamilton Jazz Orchestra

Featuring Samara Joy

In an exclusive pairing of artists, rising vocal phenomenon Samara Joy joins LA favorite Clayton-Hamilton Jazz Orchestra for a one-night only not-to-be-missed performance! Joy, a deeply emotive vocalist, exploded onto the scene in 2019 at the age of 21—often surprising audiences

with the power she packs and her “lighter than air” and “understated, swingy rhythm,” (Kevin Whitehead, NPR).

Jazz Pass Perks

Ticket passes to ~~five-concerts~~ **four-concert** bundles available and come with several money-saving perks—including a complimentary **Bronze Membership** to The Soraya (\$120 value). In addition to a free membership, all **Jazz Pass** holders will have access to both the in-person and virtual streams of all 5-concerts plus:

- An overall ticket discount of 15% off general prices
- **Guaranteed** table seating at each of the two Jazz Club performances
- 25% off food in our Jazz Club
- Access to The Soraya **Jazz Lounge** after each Great Hall concert
- Jazz Lounge artist meet and greet
- Additional discounts for tickets to The Charles Lloyd 85th Birthday Celebration on March 18

The Soraya’s Membership Perks

The second half of The Soraya’s 22-23 Season has commenced! As such, entry level memberships now start at just \$60. Members enjoy the lowest ticket prices, best seats, and invitations to exclusive events like artist meet and greets and post-show parties!

For **Jazz at Naz**, all Silver (\$500 annually), Gold (\$1,000 annually), and Platinum (\$2,500 annually) members will be invited to The Soraya’s Jazz Lounge after each of the Great Hall performances. In the Jazz Lounge audiences and performers can meet and mingle while enjoying post-show food and drinks.

Additionally:

- **\$10 Discover Jazz Virtual Pass add on:** With the purchase of any number of Jazz at Naz tickets, members can add on the Discover Jazz Virtual Pass for \$10 (\$49 value) and stream the entire festival.
- **Choose 3:** Purchasing tickets to any three concerts at The Soraya will unlock a 33% ticket discount.

Tickets: For all ticket information visit www.thesoraya.org or call the Ticket Office at (818) 677-3000.

Where: Younes and Soraya Nazarian Center for the Performing Arts (The Soraya)
18111 Nordhoff Street, Northridge, CA 91330.

Website: www.thesoraya.org

Phone: 818-677-3000

About The Soraya

Located on the vibrant and diverse campus of California State University in the heart of Los Angeles' San Fernando Valley, The Soraya continues its vigorous commitment to innovating, exceling, and amplifying access by offering a wide variety of performances that reflect LA's many distinctive communities and featuring new and original work from the Los Angeles region as well as artists from around the world.