



NEWS RELEASE

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The Third-Annual Jazz at Naz Festival's Jazz Club Returns with Local Chef at Helm of Dining

Chef Jim Bonanno promises meals filled with local flare, creativity, and ties to the roots of each artist.

Jazz at Naz Begins Jan. 27 and runs through Feb. 10, with three main stage concerts and four concerts hosted in the intimate and unique onstage Jazz Club.

Jazz fans around the world can enjoy Jazz at Naz via livestream, with a Jazz Pass (\$19 for one concert) or Discover Jazz Virtual Pass (\$49 for all four concerts)! In-person and online tickets on sale now at TheSoraya.org.

(Los Angeles, CA) January 29, 2024 — The Soraya's Jazz at Naz Festival returns for its third season, beginning on Jan. 27 with former Tijuana Brass Band Leader Herb Alpert and wife and longtime performing partner, GRAMMY®-winning artist Lani Hall. Following the sold-out festival opener, the party moves onstage for a four-night run of its [Jazz Club](#) concerts.

The Soraya brought in local Chef Jim Bonanno, the owner of Humble Bee Bakery and Café, to create locally sourced menus inspired by each Jazz Club evening's program. This marks The Soraya's second time catering the Jazz Club, the first time partnering with a local restaurant for a curated menu, and an expanded run of Jazz Club concerts (formerly just two nights). Dinner will be available for pre-order to in-person attendees with table seating.

When asked what inspired his menu, Chef Bonanno said he studied the backgrounds of each Jazz Club artist — Ranky Tanky (performing with special guest Lisa Fischer Jan. 31 – Feb. 1), and Booker T. Jones (performing with special guest Matthew Whittaker (Feb. 2-3), and created items that represented the regions where the artists are from.

Depending on what night guests attend, Chef Bonanno's menu will feature mashed potato croquettes, onion tarte tatin with pickled veggies, mushroom stuffed poblano peppers, spiced

oak smoked chicken breast, shaved brussel sprouts with king trumpet mushroom bacon, and more mouth-watering items that The Soraya is proud to serve in the Jazz Club between Jan. 31 and Feb. 3. Please note:

- *The menu will be different between the two shows, with one menu for the first two nights and another menu for the second two nights.*
- *Jazz club ticketing is available in two options. Premium tickets (table seating) are located near the front, just feet from the performers, and have the option to pre-order dinner for an additional \$50.*
- *Early access for table seating begins at 6:30 p.m. for meal service.*
- *General admission seating begins and the bar opens at 7:00 p.m.*

Enjoy Jazz at Naz Virtually!

The third-annual Jazz at Naz Festival will continue The Soraya's tradition of livestreaming jazz concerts, expanding availability for audiences around the world and creating a unique "watch it again" opportunity post-concert for all in-person patrons. Innovation in the face of COVID-19 paid off—making the inaugural Jazz at Naz Festival the most successful programming of the 2021/2022 Season—with both live performance and online revenue streams.

Executive and Artistic Director Thor Steingraber and accomplished jazz musician and educator **Reggie Quinerly** will return as hosts of the 13-camera digital stream—featuring exclusive backstage content and candid interviews with the artists.

Five Ways to Enjoy the Festival

1. **Concert Ticket:** Purchase an in-person ticket to the concert of your choice at full price.
2. **Jazz Pass for the full Festival:** Purchase in-person tickets to all five Jazz at Naz performances and **save 15%**, plus get **access to the Jazz Lounge** after each Great Hall Performance (Herb Alpert & Lani Hall, Delfeayo Marsalis, Eliades Ochoa).
3. **Choose Any 3:** Choose any three Jazz at Naz performances and **save 10%** off your purchase.
4. **Stream Jazz at Naz*:** Unable to join us in person? Purchase a streaming for pass any individual show (\$19) or purchase the complete four-show Discover Jazz Virtual Pass (\$49) and get access to all four applicable Jazz at Naz performances (Herb Alpert and Lani Hall not available)
 - a. Streaming links will be sent prior to each performance, all concerts will be in Pacific Time and the links will be available for 24 hours after the start of each performance. All in-person ticket holders will also receive streaming links. To learn more, [click here](#). ***Please note: Concerts on 1/27, 1/31, and 2/2 will not be available for streaming.**

5. **Join Membership at The Soraya:** Buy a Bronze half-year membership for \$48 and save 15% on all shows for the rest of the year! In addition to 15% savings, purchasers of this deal will get **access to the Jazz Lounge** before each Great Hall Performance (Herb Alpert & Lani Hall, Delfeayo Marsalis, Eliades Ochoa).

About Jazz at Naz — 10 Years of Making Music at The Soraya

Long before the 2011 opening of The Soraya, CSUN Jazz Studies was a national standard bearer—winning awards and training the next generation of artists. Since opening its doors, The Soraya has furthered CSUN’s profile with a nonstop procession of jazz greats performing in both The Soraya’s Great Hall and its innovative Jazz Club.

Now, the annual Jazz at Naz festival has been recognized as one of the best winter jazz festivals on the West Coast as well as the jazz epicenter in Los Angeles. Jazz at Naz has showcased major debuts for emerging artists such as two-time GRAMMY winner Samara Joy and created a home for the world’s jazz legends such as John Pizzarelli, Branford Marsalis, Dianne Reeves, Chucho Valdés, and Charles Lloyd, and turned the spotlight on influential crossover artists such as Bobby and Taylor McFerrin, Diana Krall, Jon Batiste, Gregory Porter, Herb Alpert and Lani Hall.

The Soraya’s main stage with 1700 seats has become home to the Big Band sound with Jazz at Lincoln Center Orchestra with Wynton Marsalis, Christian McBride, The Clayton-Hamilton Orchestra, Maria Schneider Orchestra, Vince Giordano & The Nighthawks, Buena Vista Social Club, and Delfeayo Marsalis’ Uptown Orchestra.

Its pioneering Jazz Club, a unique and intimate setting for jazz performances complete with food and drink, is built on The Soraya’s main stage and has featured a wide breadth of talent, including Terence Blanchard, Gerald Clayton, Cécile McLorin Salvant, Luciana Souza, Antonio Sánchez, Lisa Fischer, Booker T. Jones, and Vijay Iyer.

Since the inception of the festival The Soraya’s multi-camera live streaming expands availability for audiences around the world. The virtual streams feature behind-the-scenes content and backstage interviews with the artists, in addition to the complete concert.

About The Soraya

The Younes and Soraya Nazarian Center for The Performing Arts (The Soraya) is an award-winning, state-of-the-art 1,700-seat theatre designed and built by HGA Architects and Engineers and opened in January 2011 as the Valley Performing Arts Center (VPAC). Through a transformative gift by Younes and Soraya Nazarian the venue was renamed as The Soraya in 2017. Vibrant programming has served to establish The Soraya as the intellectual and cultural heart of the San Fernando Valley and its 1.8 million residents, and as one of the top arts and culture venues in Southern California. Since its inaugural season, The Soraya has presented over 500 artists and companies across the genres of music, dance, theater, and film and is a highly in demand location for filming and rental events.

The Soraya’s 2023/2024 Season boldly advances the expansive sound of orchestras both traditional and contemporary; the freestyle vibe of jazz; an array of dance luminaries, and a cultural bounty drawn from the musical well of global voices. The Soraya continues its vigorous commitment to innovating, excelling, and amplifying access by offering a wide variety of performances that reflect Los Angeles’ many distinctive

communities and featuring new and original work and artists from the local region as well as nationally and around the world.

Located on the vibrant campus of California State University Northridge (CSUN), The Soraya and the Mike Curb College of Arts, Media, and Communication share an integral link that enhances student access and opportunities in the arts and performing arts. A \$5 million contribution from record producer and former California Lieutenant Governor Mike Curb was pivotal in ensuring the completion and opening of The Soraya in 2011. For his founding support and in acknowledgment of the integral relationship between the Mike Curb College and The Soraya, Mike Curb is recognized as one of The Soraya's Cornerstone Benefactors. This partnership fosters academic and artistic excellence, elevating the talents and the future growth of CSUN's students through master classes, student tickets, concerts of student ensembles, and students appearing alongside renowned artists such as Wynton Marsalis, Aida Cuevas, and Martha Graham Dance Company.

For Interview Requests, please contact:

- The Soraya Communications Associate Marie Estrada (marie.estrada@csun.edu)
- PR Consultant Gary Murphy (garymurphypr@garymurphypr.com)
- [ACCESS YOUR PRESS KIT HERE.](#)

Jazz at Naz Festival Performances

*An * Denotes that the concert is not available for streaming.*

Sat Jan 27 | 8pm*

Great Hall

A Golden Anniversary with Herb Alpert & Lani Hall

Legendary Tijuana Brass founder and trumpeter combines work and home life in this jazzy return to The Soraya stage. Celebrating their Golden Wedding Anniversary, Alpert's signature brass dances with the airy and sensual voice of Hall proving that even after half a century the sparks still fly.

Wed Jan 31 | 8pm*

Thu Feb 1 | 8pm

Jazz Club

Ranky Tanky with very special guest Ms. Lisa Fischer

Fischer returns to the Soraya with the ebullient sounds of Southern Jazz. Featuring traditional spirituals, standards, and contemporary offerings, the get funky Gullah vibe of **Ranky Tanky** uplifts as Fischer's delightfully rich Gospel tone brightens familiar jazz standards.

Fri Feb 2 | 8pm*

Sat Feb 3 | 8pm

Jazz Club

Booker T. Jones

60 Years of Green Onions & The Hammond B-3

With special guest Matthew Whitaker

Funky Soul fills the air of The Soraya 60 years after Booker T. Jones' defining record **Green Onions** hit the charts. The stone groove of Memphis reverberates throughout the Great Hall in the electrostatic sound of the Hammond B3 Organ. This unique Southern California pairing finds the architect of sound reinvigorated with the high-octane energy of Whitaker's youth.

Wed Feb 7 | 8pm

Great Hall

**[Delfeayo Marsalis](#)
[and the Uptown Jazz Orchestra](#)**

Celebrate the sounds of New Orleans with this fun and festive evening of music. Producer, educator, and trombone player, Marsalis leads the vibrant Uptown Jazz Orchestra in a performance that crystalizes the stories, sounds, and rhythms of NOLA. Glide through the fabled streets of the city's French Quarter and experience the symphonic dance of Carnival as the music of Mardi Gras fills The Soraya's Great Hall.

Sat Feb 10 | 8pm

Great Hall

**[Eliades Ochoa with special guest Harold López-Nussa](#)
[Timba a la Americana](#)
[Feat. Grégoire Maret](#)
[With Luques Curtis & Ray Adrian López-Nussa](#)**

Sway to the hazy melodies and poignant rhythms of Cuba. Colorful island sounds linger in the air as the famed Buena Vista Social Club guitarist brings the music of his homeland to the stage. This master session is a pulse-elevating evening of Latin Jazz you won't soon forget.

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

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