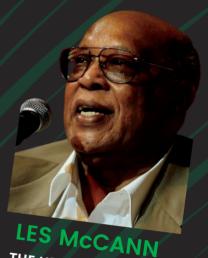
California Jazz Foundation's GIVE THE BAND A HAND!

SATURDAY, APRIL 26, 2025 • 5:30 PM





THE HERITAGE AWARD



BOB BARRY THE PRESIDENT'S AWARD





Special Gratitude to the California Jazz Foundation

for all you do to help our jazz musicians!

Congratulations to all of tonight's honorees.

Cathy Stone



California Jazz Foundation's GIVE THE BAND A HAND!

2025 Gala

Saturday, April 26, 2025 • 5:30pm

Honoring

2025 Nica Award

Hubert Laws

NEA Jazz Master Flutist

2025 Heritage Award

Les McCann

(posthumously

Pianist, Composer and Vocalist

2025 President's Award

Bob Barry

Jazz Photographer Extraordinaire

OMNI Los Angeles Hotel

251 South Olive Street Los Angeles, CA. 90012

Celebrating Jazz Appreciation Month

Jazz Appreciation Month (JAM) was created in 2001 to recognize and celebrate the extraordinary heritage and history of jazz for the entire month of April.

JAM is intended to stimulate and encourage people of all ages to participate in jazz to study the music, attend concerts, listen to jazz on radio and recordings, read books about jazz, and more.

FROM THE PRESIDENT

Edythe L. Bronston, Esq.



April 26 2025

Welcome, old friends and new, to our annual Gala, "Give the Band a Hand," 2025 version. All of our prior Galas have been special and the music is always superb, but for successive years each event has been ever-more exciting. I think that this is, in large part, because our honorees, and therefore their fans, have become more diverse. The consensus of our attendees seems to uphold that conclusion as our audiences expand to include fans of somewhat differing musical genres.

Our jazz community can be proud of our willingness to open our ears and our hearts to new musical experiences. With this expansion

the energy level in the ballroom rises exponentially, with much dancing between tables! It is a beautiful sight to behold and I'm smiling just thinking about the enthusiasm and excitement that this year's Gala will bring to us all.

What a night we have in store for you—Hubert Laws, known to all of us as one of the premier classical flutists of his generation, is being honored not only by the California Jazz Foundation, but by his loving family, represented by Debra Laws, Eloise Laws, and Ronnie Laws. Hubert will receive the "Nica" award, acknowledging both his jazz and classical roots and his illustrious career as one of the most prolific flutists in history. The award will be presented to him by longtime friend and musical colleague, Stix Hooper. The memory of Les McCann will be honored with the "Heritage" award for his lasting contribution to the genre which has come to be known as "soul jazz." Les' dear friends, Joe Alterman, Craig Cooper, and Donald Dean, as well as Andy Langham, John Leftwitch, Jerry Vivino, and Trevor Ware, will present rousing examples of Les' stirring music.

This year's Gala introduces a new and well-deserved honor, the "President's" award, for special value to the jazz world. This inaugural honor will be given to our very own Bob Barry, master jazz archivist, who through the years has





given his talents and his energies to photographing our jazz icons in their special environment, doing what they love and live for, all through Bob's devoted eye. What a gift he has given to us all.

We think you will have a wonderful musical evening that you will long remember, while learning what CJF is about and helping us raise the funds we need to continue with our mandate of helping our jazz musicians in need.

This year saw many personal disasters, commencing with the devastating January fires. Many of our beloved musicians and their families lost their homes and most, if not all, of their possessions. Many were directly involved in helping others, even while suffering their own shattering losses.

I'm proud to report that CJF rose to the task at hand, establishing a fire relief program, headed by Damian Kerr, our social worker, Roni Fischer, CJF Secretary, and Director Peggy Barber, but involving virtually the entire CJF Board in one way or another. Through this effort, CJF has given emergency financial aid to 60 impacted musicians to the tune of \$60,000. These applicants will have the ability to reapply to CJF under our regular program. Cathy Segal-Garcia, Gina Kronstadt, and several other musicians leapt in to match bereft musicians with donated instruments, an ongoing effort. Our wonderful members have given their all as well, as donations flew in to help CJF meet these urgent needs.

The California Jazz Foundation was formed in January 2006 and since then, we have helped over 500 musicians. We are planning to celebrate our 20th anniversary at our 2026 Gala and hope you will mark April 2026 in your calendars—we have a lot to be thankful for and we are planning a very special evening! Finally, please remember that our annual Galas are CJF's biggest fundraisers and this one is no exception. Please give generously—and have a blast!

Best.

Edythe L. Bronston, President

Edute L. Brosto

California Jazz Foundation's GIVE THE BAND A HAND!

Event Chair

Edythe L. Bronston, Esq.

Dinner Co-Chairs

Joe Alterman • John Beasley • Kenny Burrell Gregory A. Carroll • Billy Childs • John Clayton Stix Hooper • Gina Kronstadt • Christian McBride Catalina Popescu • Ruth Price • José Rizo Tierney Sutton • Richard Allen Williams, MD

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Clayton Cameron

Auction

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Volunteers

Vicki Pedrini

Event Produced by

The Proper Image Events - Scherr Lillico

Show Produced by

Steve Baker Productions



California Jazz Foundation's

GIVE THE BAND A HAND!

Tonight's Menu

Little Gem Salad

Cranberry, Crispy Wonton, Mandarin Segments LA Green Goddess

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#### Herb-Rubbed Chicken Breast

Fingerling potatoes, Asparagus & Roasted Tomato Ragu, Thyme Lemon Jus

#### Pan-Roasted Atlantic Salmon

Barley Risotto, Red Pesto, Port Syrup, Roasted Asparagus

#### Vegan or Vegetarian, Gluten-Free "Crab Cakes"

Artichoke, Hearts of Palm, Chickpeas, Herbs, Red Quinoa, Market Vegetables

#### Alternating Desserts:

Chocolate Hazelnut Crunch Cake

Raspberry Coulis, Whipped Mascarpone, Mint

&

#### Lemon Ricotta Cheesecake

Vanilla Cream, Blueberry Ginger Compote

Fresh Brewed Coffee, Decaf Coffee, Hot Tea or Iced Tea

#### Tonight's Wine

Our appreciation to

**Cobblestone Vineyards** 

(Wine of New Zealand)

2012 TE MUNA - Pinot Noir





# GIVE THE BAND A HAND! The Concert - Special Guests

#### **Les McCann Tribute Band**

Joe Alterman, piano • Trevor Ware, bass Donald Dean Sr., drums • Jerry Vivino, sax Bernard Fowler, vocal

# Hubert Laws Tribute Ensemble - Laws Family Band

Andy Langham, piano • John Leftwich, bass
Craig T Cooper, guitar • Clayton Cameron, drums
Adam Ledbetter, keyboards
Debra Laws, vocal • Eloise Laws, vocal
Ronnie Laws, sax • Hubert Laws, flute
Tierney Sutton, vocal

Fernando Pullum Community
Arts Center Quintet

Ché Tafari, piano • Randy Pazos, bass Ike Crump, drums • Eli Heard, trumpet Chris Adeniji, sax

## GIVE THE BAND A HAND!

# Special Guests



Host: LeRoy Downs



President, CJF Edythe Bronston, Esq.



**Stix Hooper** 



The Laws Family



Donald Dean Sr.



**Tierney Sutton** 



**Bernard Fowler** 



## GIVE THE BAND A HAND!

# Tonight's Program

Cocktail Reception and Silent Auction

# Welcome & Dinner Music FERNANDO PULLUM COMMUNITY ARTS CENTER QUINTET

*Host* LeRoy Downs

Greetings

Edythe Bronston, President & Founder

California Jazz Foundation

#### **DINNER**

Live Auction and Fund A Need
Kris Kloss

Testimonial
Damian Kerr, M.S.W.

## GIVE THE BAND A HAND!

## Presentations and Tributes

Host: LeRoy Downs

#### PRESIDENT'S AWARD BOB BARRY

Presented by: Edythe Bronston
Video Tribute

# HERITAGE AWARD LES McCANN

Presented by: Joe Alterman and Donald Dean Sr. Video Tribute Accepted by: Gus Perdikakis

#### **Musical Tribute to Les**

McCann Tribute Band and Bernard Fowler

#### NICA AWARD HUBERT LAWS

Presented by: Stix Hooper

Video Tribute

#### Musical Tribute to Hubert

The Laws Family Band and Tierney Sutton

*Music Director* Clayton Cameron

#### California Jazz Foundation

#### **Officers**

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\*In Memoriam

#### **NICA**

"Nica helped the Jazz Messengers with so much. When we were trying to get things going, she supported us and paid for our uniforms, bought us pants and shirts to match to go on the road with, so we'd look good."

—Horace Silver to Josef Woodard '98

When New Yorkers saw a silver Bentley pull up to a nightclub, they knew that Jazz royalty was in their midst. Yes, Baroness Pannonica de Koenigswarter (1913–1988) was a Rothschild, but she was often in the company of Thelonious Monk, Art Blakey or any number of celebrated musicians. Her nobility was not confined to her bloodline or title. In a racially polarized nation, she recognized Jazz as an art and nurtured its practitioners.

Nica was a Jazz philanthropist in the best sense of the term: giving material aid and comfort to great artists, most of whom were regarded as nothing more than nightclub entertainers in America. Jazz musicians from coast to coast knew they had a place to stay in Nica's Weehawken, New Jersey home.



A French national, Nica left France after her marriage ended. She relocated to New York in the early 1950s, and Charlie Parker expired in her hotel apartment. Nica withstood a torrent of tabloid slander and stood by the musicians. It was in her emotional and material support for Thelonious Monk, the enormously complex genius, that The Jazz Baroness distinguished herself as an important facilitator of the music.

Like Peggy Guggenheim, Betty Freeman, or other noted arts benefactors, Nica helped the music wherever she could. The residue of her generosity enriched Jazz, in compositions like Gigi Gryce's "Nica's Dream," Art Blakey's "Weehawken Mad Pad," and Monk's tender portrait, "Pannonica."

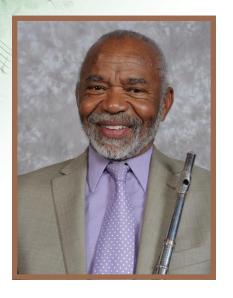
To honor her spirit, The California Jazz Foundation proudly awards The Nica each year to a most worthy jazz musician or aficionado.

-Kurk Ssilsbe



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#### THE NICA AWARD



#### **HUBERT LAWS**

By Gary Fukushima

His name has been synonymous with "jazz flute" for as long as anyone can remember, but Hubert Laws' first instrument in elementary school (aside from a few piano lessons at age five) was the mellophone. He discovered the saxophone a few years later, saving his money from his paper route to purchase one, winning a local talent competition with it at age 13 and taking it with him to high school. There, his path was forged when he was asked to play a flute solo for a performance of Rossini's "William Tell Overture." In a 2011 interview with the

Smithsonian National Museum of American History, Laws recounts how he was given a flute by a classmate who happened to own one. "I learned to play that flute to play that solo," he recalled. "I struggled for two days. Couldn't get a sound out of the thing." But Laws' musical talent was matched only by his determination and work ethic. "I practiced like mad. I finally got a sound and murdered that solo."

The death of that solo birthed the illustrious career of one of the most prolific flutists in history, an artist whose career spanning over six decades also traversed the often-insurmountable walls of genre and style: from jazz to classical, R&B, rock and pop. The three-time Grammy nominee received in 2010 a lifetime achievement award from the National Endowment for the Arts in the field of jazz, and a year later he was a recipient of the 2011 NEA Jazz Masters Award. He sat for 10 consecutive years atop the *DownBeat* Readers Poll for flute, while winning the Critics Poll seven years in a row.

Hubert Laws, Jr. was born in Houston, Texas on November 10, 1939. His father, Hubert Laws, Sr., worked two jobs for most of his life—retreading tires from seven in the morning into the early afternoon, then working at a parking garage until midnight. "I always kept that in mind," said Laws. "[If] my dad can do that, hey man, I can practice my flute eight hours at least... That was an incentive for me." His mother was a seamstress as well as a homemaker, and she played piano for their local church choir. Laws invented melodies by ear at the family piano, before ultimately settling on flute in high school. That was where he also met Nesbitt "Stix" Hooper, who, along with Joe Sample, Henry "La La" Wilson,

Wayne Henderson and Wilton Felder, decided to form a band. After high school, they all caravaned to Los Angeles, where their band began to work under an evolving set of monikers: the Modern Jazz Sextet, the Swingsters, the Night Hawks the Jazz Crusaders, and finally, the Crusaders.

In 1960, Laws left the Crusaders and Los Angeles for New York, to attend Juilliard on a full scholarship, while also playing with Mongo Santamaria. One of his classmates was a pianist named Chick Corea, who ended up playing for Laws' debut album for Atlantic Records: The Laws of Jazz [1964]. He would record two more albums for Atlantic before signing with a label under the stewardship of Creed Taylor. Laws' first album for CTI Records marked the beginning of a fruitful relationship with arguably the most progressive and successful jazz labels through the 1970s. His distinctive flute sound could be heard on a myriad of notable albums from that era, including Herbie Hancock's The Prisoner [1970 Blue Note], Freddie Hubbard's Sky Dive [1972 CTI], and Quincy Jones' Walking in Space [1969 A&M].

Even as his jazz career was in full bloom, Laws was establishing himself as one of the premier classical flautists of his generation, studying with noted flute master Julius Baker and becoming a member of the New York Metropolitan Opera Orchestra as well as the New York Philharmonic from 1969-1972. Laws incorporated his love of classical melodies into more than a few of his jazz projects, including his reimagining of Stravinsky's "The Rite of Spring" and Tchaikovsky's "Romeo and Juliet," to widespread acclaim by both jazz and classical aficionados.

Laws, who returned to Los Angeles in 1981, continued to make music through the end of the previous millennium into the current one, and he has recorded with an uncountable number of musical A-listers, including Stevie Wonder, Ella Fitzgerald, Aretha Franklin, Paul McCartney, Paul Simon, Sergio Mendes and Carly Simon. At age 85, he is still musically and physically fit, with an unchanging reverence for music and art from his early years until now.

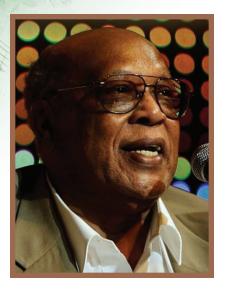
Laws shared an anecdote to *DownBeat Magazine* in 1973, attributed to Picasso: "You don't have to be educated to understand what the petal on a flower is, in order to really appreciate its beauty."

Nearly forty years later, he offered this:

"I'm pointing out things that I've done personally, but I don't look at myself—I say many times: music is bigger than me... It doesn't start or stop with me. There's something greater..."



#### THE HERITAGE AWARD



#### LES McCANN

By Gary Fukushima

In June 1969 at the Montreux Jazz Festival in Switzerland, Les McCann found himself about to go onstage with his trio along with special guests Eddie Harris on saxophone and trumpeter Benny Bailey, in an impromptu, unscheduled performance that was nonetheless being recorded and filmed for a live broadcast. The pianist and singer revealed years later that, perhaps due to the pressure of the moment:

"Just before we went onstage, and for the first time in my life, I smoked some hash."

After stumbling to the piano completely disoriented, he recalled:

"The other guys said 'OK, play, man!' Somehow I got myself together, and after that, everything just took off."

And take off they did, to the delight of a boisterous, roaring crowd who applauded every extended riff and tremolo. The performance became the live album Swiss Movement [1969 Atlantic], featuring the hit single "Compared to What" by Eugene McDaniels, which propelled McCann to No. 35 on the Billboard R&B chart, leading the album to earn sales of half a million copies and a Grammy nomination to boot. Moreover, it cemented McCann, with his distinctive gospel-piano style and earthenrich voice, as a pioneer of what became known as "soul jazz," and a singularly authentic voice as there ever has been in the history of jazz.

Leslie Coleman McCann was born September 23, 1935, in Lexington, Kentucky. His father, James, was a water maintenance engineer, while his mother, Anna, sang opera to Les and his seven siblings as she worked around the house. He took only a few piano lessons in his youth but was otherwise musically engaged throughout his childhood as he sang in his church choir and played sousaphone and drums in marching band.



McCann's interest in music piqued when he was posted in San Francisco after joining the Navy out of high school. While there, he entered and won a singing contest, the prize getting to perform on *The Ed Sullivan Show* in 1956. He frequented the famous Blackhawk jazz club, eventually working as a doorman there after his discharge from the Navy. And McCann formed his first piano trio, Les McCann Ltd., which debuted at the Purple Onion in 1959.

Shortly after that, McCann relocated to Los Angeles, where he studied music and journalism at Los Angeles City College, hosted a jam session on Monday nights at the Hillcrest Club, and signed a record deal with Pacific Records, making his first recording, Les McCann Ltd. Plays the Truth [1960], with bassist Leroy Vinnegar and drummer Ron Jefferson. McCann would remain an Angeleno for the rest of his illustrious life, recording over 50 albums from 1960 to 2018, which were a major influence on R&B and funk musicians. In addition to his long-standing trio, McCann worked with a bevy of notable artists, including Joe Pass, Teddy Edwards, The Jazz Crusaders, and singers Lou Rawls and Roberta Flack, who was first discovered by McCann when he heard her sing at a local Washington D.C. nightclub and urged his label, Atlantic, to sign her to a deal.

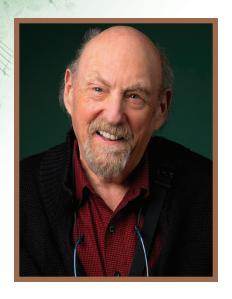
His music has also become a favorite source of sampling by hip-hop artists. Among the nearly 300 rappers to do so are Cypress Hill, A Tribe Called Quest, Massive Attack, Logic, Eric B. & Rakim, Nas, De La Soul, Snoop Dogg, the Notorious B.I.G. and Sean Combs.

McCann spent the last four years of his life at a nursing facility in Van Nuys. He contracted and succumbed to pneumonia on December. 29, 2023, at the age of 88, having remained remarkably consistent and true to his own artistic soul throughout his life. In a 2015 interview with All About Jazz, McCann summarized his career:

"Tell me if you like it or you don't, but it really doesn't matter. ... To me, my jazz is personal. You can't mess with my heart. And you can't mess with my music because my music is my heart."



## THE CJF PRESIDENT'S AWARD



#### **BOB BARRY** by Gary Fukushima

Bob Barry was sitting in his condo when he got a call from his friend, who wanted to take him out to see a show. "I said, well, you know, I really don't feel well," Barry recalled. "He said, no, you've got to go. So, I said OK. And he took me to a club out in Pasadena, called Papashon." That night Barry met guitarist John Pisano, who had performed with everyone from Peggy Lee to Herb Alpert, Frank Sinatra to Barbara Streisand. Pisano was performing with his wife, Jeanne, known together as the "Flying Pisanos." Barry recounted the experience in an interview with the National Association of Music Merchants (NAMM)

for their oral history series. "I got to talk with John a lot during that evening, and I really liked him and he liked me," said Barry, who would become a regular patron of Pisano's shows from that point on.

Then, in 1997, something happened which would forever alter the course of Barry's life. Pisano invited Barry to join him at a new weekly event Pisano was calling "Guitar Night," where he would invite a second guitarist to play, along with bass and drums. "I remember going out the door," Barry said, "and I looked at the camera sitting on my bureau and I thought, maybe I should take the camera with me. And I just picked it up and I put it in my bag... You know, isn't it interesting how the smallest decisions you make can affect your life in such a major way?" Barry's photos documenting Pisano's very first Guitar Night were an instant hit, prompting him to continue to shoot nearly every Guitar Night after that, thus beginning the illustrious career of a quintessential jazz photographer.

Just don't call him a "jazz photographer." Barry has made a clear distinction between what that term means to him, versus what his aims are as a "jazz archivist." He sums it up this way:

"The Jazz photographer concentrates for the most part on selections of a performance and those artists that interest him or her. A photo archivist captures not just the individual performances, but the entire event, sometimes including the venue and those people associated with, and behind, the scenes.

My job as an archivist is to capture in photos the essence of an event so that, for

many years to come, our audience will be able to view these images and relive the historical record of that event and get a feel for the entire experience of the who, where and what happened during that particular performance."

Robert Barry Horowitz was born on March 17, 1943, in Suffern, New York. He became a stage actor, working off Broadway in the productions of *Alligator Man* and *The Brass Butterfly* (alongside Sam Waterston), and he debuted on Broadway in 1976 with *So Long*, *174th Street*, playing opposite Robert Morse. He also began appearing in TV shows and commercials (most notably as a singing raisin for Post Raisin Bran). When he wasn't acting, he picked up gigs as a lounge singer in and around Manhattan.

But Barry was always into photography, since he was eight years old, when he inherited his family's old Kodak 120 camera. He honed his skills taking photos in Riverside Park and other parks in Manhattan, and he started to shoot his fellow actors who needed promo pics. His move to Los Angeles in the 1980s ultimately led to his chance meeting with Pisano.

Barry's handiwork can be seen on nearly 90 album covers, capturing such luminaries as Kenny Burrell, Rosemary Clooney, Mark Murphy, Pat Martino, Barbara Morrison, John Pisano, The Count Basie Orchestra and Joe Diorio. His distinctive, black-and-white portraits capture countless musical icons including Abdullah Ibrahim, Albert, "Tootie" Heath, Ben Vereen, Bennie Maupin, Benny Golson, Brian Blade, Charles Lloyd, Chick Corea, Christian McBride, Clark Terry, Dee Dee Bridgewater, Diane Reeves, Esperanza Spalding, George Duke, Herb Ellis, Hubert Laws, Joshua Redman, Jimmy Heath, Nancy Wilson, Pharoah Sanders, Quincy Jones, Ron Carter, Roy Hargrove, Russell Malone, Stanley Clarke, Terence Blanchard, Wayne Shorter, and virtually every guitar player who ever shared the stage with John Pisano for his cherished Guitar Night. Barry was present most every week, camera in hand.

Barry's jazz photography resides in the permanent collections of two museums: The American Jazz Museum in Kansas City, MO, and the Mayme Clayton Library and Museum in Culver City. A collection of Barry's work also resides as a permanent collection in the lobbies and common areas of the Sound Department in the Henry Mancini Building on the NBC Universal lot in Universal City. His photos from Pisano's 22-year run can be found in a photo essay book Barry titled, fittingly, *Guitar Night*. In 2012, filmmaker Dailey Pike did a documentary about the life and works of Barry called: *Bob Barry—Jazzography in Black & White*, which won an award in the Tupelo Film Festival.

Barry has been a beloved, long-standing member of the Board of the California Jazz Foundation. His immersion in the jazz world provides a perspective which brings significant value to Board decisions. In addition, he bestows each meeting with equal doses of charm and humor, another commendation for this rare artist who has contributed so much in his own way to the American art form of jazz.

# California Jazz Foundation's GIVE THE BAND A HAND!

#### **Our Past Honorees**

#### <u>2013 – Nica Award</u>

Catalina Popescu

Founder and Proprietor Catalina Jazz Club

#### 2014 – Nica Award

**Ruth Price** 

Impresario and Founder The Jazz Bakery

#### **2015 – Nica Award**

Corky Hale & Mike Stoller

Harpist, Composer Record Producer, Philanthropists

#### 2016 - Nica Award

John Clayton

Bass Virtuoso Educator, Mentor

#### 2016 - Inaugural Heritage Award

**Rav Brown** 

Bass Guru, Mentor Defined the modern Jazz Rhythm

#### 2017 - Nica Award

Kenny Burrell

NEA Jazz Master Guitar Virtuoso, Educator

#### 2017 - Heritage Award

**Gerald Wilson** 

NEA Jazz Master, Trumpeter Bandleader, Composer, Arranger

#### 2018 - Nica Award

Dr. Bobby Rodriguez

Trumpet Guru, Educator Clinician, Recording Artist

#### 2018 – Heritage Award

**Buddy Collette** 

Activist, Mentor Superlative Reed Player

#### 2019 - Nica Award

Patrice Rushen

Pianist, Composer, Educator Producer, Music Director

#### 2019 - Heritage Award

Ndugu Chancler

Drummer, Composer Producer, Educator

#### 2019 – Inaugural Terry Award

Terry Gibbs

Vibraphonist, Composer Arranger, Bandleader

#### 2020 - Nica Award

Billy Mitchell

Pianist, Educator Humanitarian

#### 2020 - Heritage Award

Johnny Mandel

NEA Jazz Master Composer, Arranger

#### 2021 - Nica Award

Tim Jackson

Artistic Director, Monterey Jazz Founder of Kuumbwa Jazz Center

#### 2021 - Heritage Award

Horace Silver

Pianist, Composer Innovator

#### 2022 - Nica Award

Don Was

Musician, Producer President of Blue Note Records

#### 2022 – Heritage Award

Jeff Clayton

Saxophonist, Bandleader Educator

#### 2023 - Nica Award

José Rizo

Radio Host, Producer Composer, Bandleader

#### 2023 - Heritage Awards

**Ernie Andrews** 

**Barbara Morrison** 

Legendary Jazz Vocalists

#### 2024 - Nica Award

**Rickey Minor** 

Conductor, Music Doctor, Bassist

#### 2024 - Heritage Award

Betty Hoover

Jazz impressario

# We protect the privacy of those we help - but a few authorized testimonials

"By some miracle, I was put in touch with The California Jazz Foundation, and they generously sprang to my rescue... They have enabled many of us to go on, doing what we believe in and spreading music that brings joy to millions!"

Noel Jewkes, Saxophonist

"The California Jazz Foundation quickly and generously came to our aid when we needed help. The Foundation, providing assistance for Jazz musicians facing unexpected circumstances, is a true blessing. Thank you!"

Paul Gormley, Bassist

"I want to thank you for the support CJF has given me through this dark period of my life. Your support shined a light on my recovery which I will not forget."

Kevin (Brandino, Brandon, Bassist)

"My heartfelt thanks are simply not enough. The California Jazz Foundation quite literally kept me going as I recovered from cancer. These angels of music helped me with their gracious generosity. I am forever in their debt and will do whatever I can to give back to the next musician who is in need."

Cheryl Bentyne, Jazz Vocalist



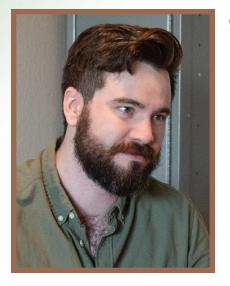
As a charitable nonprofit organization, The California Jazz Foundation relies on membership and support, not only from Jazz lovers, but all those who value the arts! Your support will allow us to continue helping California's Jazz musicians in time of need. Won't you join us?

Donate Now – Become a Member www.CaliforniaJazzFoundation.org



#### A NOTE FROM DAMIAN KERR

Social Worker at the California Jazz Foundation



#### C HERE TO HELP

As the social worker for the California Jazz Foundation, I have the privilege of witnessing firsthand the strength, resilience, and spirit of the jazz community we serve. This year, we're celebrating nineteen years of standing beside California's jazz musicians—and I can say with certainty, our mission is as relevant today as it was the day we started.

At CJF, we understand that life as a musician comes with its own unique set of challenges. Rising costs,

unstable housing, health issues, and aging all take a toll—especially when work is inconsistent. That's where we step in. My role is to get to know each applicant not just on paper, but as a whole person.

We look beyond financial hardship to truly understand what's needed—and how we can help ease that burden with care, dignity, and respect.

We offer grants that provide critical financial relief, and we connect artists with resources for medical, housing, and other social needs. This isn't just about money—it's about keeping people connected to their art and their purpose.

More recently, in response to the Los Angeles wildfires, we mobilized quickly to support those impacted. I'm proud to share that we were able to assist over 60 jazz musicians who were directly affected—offering emergency aid to help stabilize their lives and keep the music going through incredibly difficult times.

Every day, I get to witness the difference your generosity makes. Your support provides more than financial aid—it offers hope, stability, and a sense of community to artists who have dedicated their lives to sharing their gifts with us all.

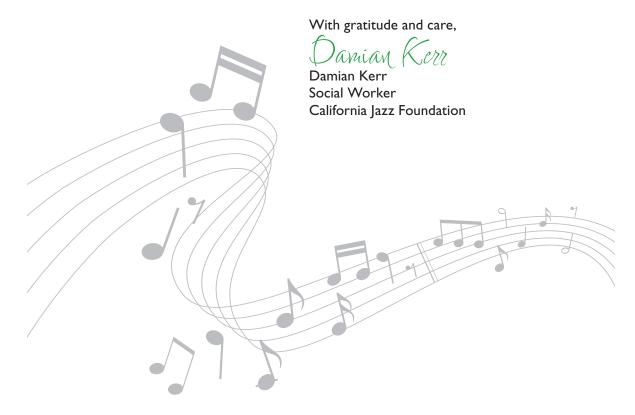
If you or someone you know is a jazz musician in California facing a difficult time, please don't hesitate to reach out. I'm here to help.

Phone: (818) 400-3267

 ${\bf Email: help@californiajazz foundation.org}$ 

Website: californiajazzfoundation.org

Together, we can continue to create a world where jazz musicians are not only heard, but honored, supported, and empowered—in every chapter of their journey.



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The California Jazz Foundation is a 501 (c) (3) nonprofit organization created to aid and assist California jazz musicians in financial and/or medical crisis.



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LES McCann



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## **Hubert Laws**

Sincere appreciation for all you do.

## Les McCann

Thank you for sharing your talent with us for so many years!

## **Bob Barry**

You are just the best!!!



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# CALIFORNIA JAZZ FOUNDATION

Thank you for being there for so many jazz musicians in need!

Howard Banchik

# My Warmest Congratulations

to Hubert Laws

to the memory of Les McCann

and my heartfelt appreciation to Bob Barry

Your gifts to the jazz community are

**PRICELESS!** 

Edythe Bronston, President & Founder California Jazz Foundation



## Rest in peace, dear Soul Brother Les.

As you always expressed to us, "And don't forget to love yourself, Yay! Yay! Yay!"

Your Angels, Gus, Jo Ann, Judy, Sandy & Dean and all of our and McCann families.

Thank you California Jazz Foundation for all of the important work that you do lending a helping hand to our Jazz community!

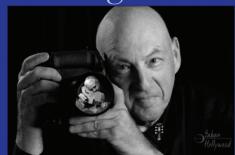
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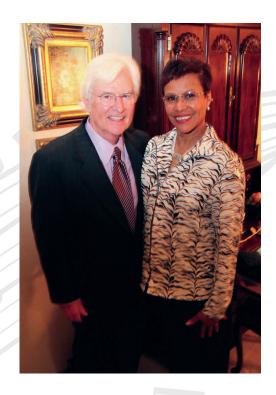




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# Honored to support the California Jazz Foundation!

# Congratulations to Hubert Laws, Les McCann, and Bob Barry



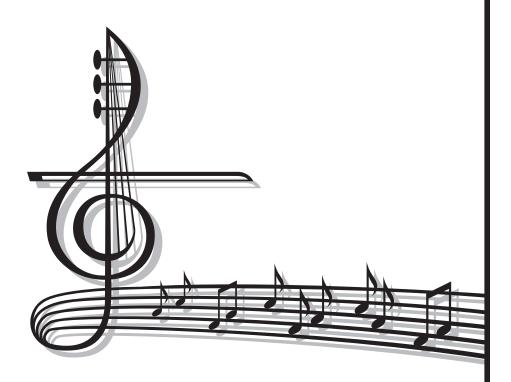
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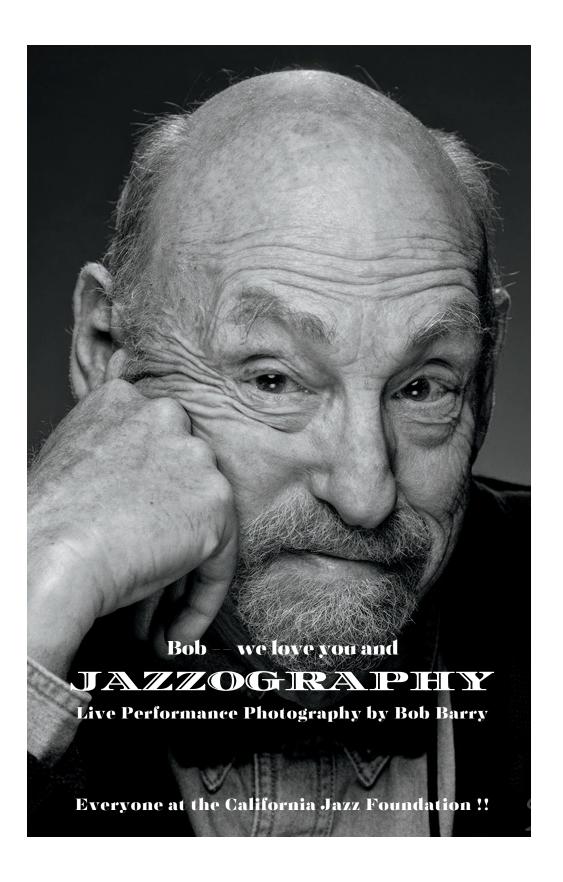
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#### FROM TREVOR WARE & PAULA WATSON-WARE

We pledge our honor and deep appreciation to the entire jazz community for the incredible spirit of mutual care that defines us.

It's a special privilege this evening to celebrate individuals who enrich our world:

First, we honor the remarkable Laws family, particularly Moila & Hubert Sr.'s eldest son, Hubert Laws. Hubert, your flute virtuosity is simply breathtaking, and your ability to transcend genre has inspired so many of us beyond measure. Huge congratulations on being named The California Jazz Foundation's 2025 Nica Award winner!

We also honor the unforgettable Les McCann, recipient of the 2025 California Jazz Foundation Heritage Award. His contributions to the language of jazz are undeniable, and his power to make an audience truly rock was legendary. Having had the chance to meet Les, and later working extensively with his brilliant drummer Donald Dean, Trevor feels a personal connection to his powerful legacy. Congratulations on this fitting recognition.

And to our friend, Bob Barry, recipient of this year's President's Award – we honor you! With your keen eye, stealthy approach, and immense patience, you find and frame the most artistic images of artists creating their art. But we believe your real gift, Bob, is how you make people feel genuinely great while ensuring they look their absolute best. We value your artistry and your humanity immensely.



Thank You to the Kasimoff Piano Company for tonight's exquisite piano!

**California Jazz Foundation** 



## We salute the CALIFORNIA JAZZ FOUNDATION for it's commitment to our jazz musicians and congratulate tonight's honorees

Hubert Laws
Les McCann
and
Bob Barry

"For the Love of Jazz"



The Board of Trustees
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#### **CONGRATULATIONS** TO BOB BARRY ON A **WELL-DESERVED RECOGNITION!**



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-Carolyn Patrick-Wanzo



Thank you to our team of caring, knowledgeable professionals and community partners.

#### Friends of California Jazz Foundation and our Honorees

#### Thank you for supporting our evening and our jazz musicians!

Donald Camph
Alan Charles Ellsworth
Joyce Fox
Andrea M. Jones
Michele Pedrini
Leslie Pedrini
Mike and Alexander Werner Resnick
Rosemary Risley
Norman & Roberta Schulaner
Patty Ball Thomas & Walter Charles Thomas Jr.
Patrisha Thomson
Judy Wolman
Rita Zwern



We hope everyone will join the California Jazz Foundation this September at our summer party

#### "JAZZ in the HILLS!"

- hosted at a private residence in Hidden Hills.

Overlooking the San Fernando Valley, this lovely home provides the opportunity for our guests to mingle and listen to great jazz under the stars from our CJF Boardmembers, while enjoying a wonderful evening of cocktails and an hors d'ouevres buffet.

Watch your CJF news for the September date to be announced soon.

## Special Congratulations to all of tonight's honorees.

We're honored to be a part of the annual

#### **GIVE THE BAND A HAND GALA!**

Thank you - Edy!

Scherr Lillico • Brianne Quigley Amy Kang • Nic Quastella



Nalla Assessa Van Nasa CA



#### **SPECIAL THANKS**

to all individuals and companies who contributed to tonight's auction

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And to anyone committed due to printing deadlines—thank you all!



#### **GIVE THE BAND A HAND!**

## Special Gratitude to the following for their support

The Board of Directors of California Jazz Foundation

The Gala Committee

The Show - Steve Baker - Steve Baker Productions

Audio Visual Production - PIXELWERKS - Michael McDonald
Lighting/Audio - G2 Audio and Lighting
Backline - CENTER STAGING
Piano provided by Kasimoff Blüthner Piano Co.
Shaun Brown and Staff of OMNI Los Angeles Hotel
Photography - Bob Barry
Public Relations - Robert Sax
Honoree Bios by Gary Fukushima
Graphics - Scherr Lillico, and Not So Square Design
Printing - Design Printing LA
and K&J Printing

TONIGHT'S WINE - Cobblestone Vineyards
Stephanie Levine

VOLUNTEERS - Chair: Vicki Pedrini Loyola Marymount Belles Rosemary de Alba, Gail Lara, Nancy Friedman

**EVENT PRODUCTION and AUCTION** 

Scherr Lillico • Brianne Quigley
Amy Kang • Nic Guastella
The Proper Image Events

Thank you all for your support!

### CALIFORNIA JAZZ FOUNDATION

#### Who we are

The California Jazz Foundation is a nonprofit organization created to assist California jazz musicians in crisis. We are committed to providing access to quality social and economic services for all eligible applicants. We do so through a team of caring, knowledgeable professionals in collaboration with community partners.

#### What we do

Since its founding in 2006, CJF has touched the lives of over 500 California jazz musicians - providing counseling; arranging for medical and dental care; assisting with housing needs; and helping with other emergencies.

We have a growing statewide referral network of medical professionals in various disciplines, ready to provide essential healthcare services to qualified recipients on a sliding-scale basis.

#### What we offer

- Financial assistance (grants paid to third parties on behalf of applicants)
- Referrals to regional service agencies
- Access to additional resources
- Counseling and other support services

The California Jazz Foundation is also committed to raising musicians' awareness of the importance of prevention and early treatment of disease through free public education and community outreach programs.

#### **Confidentiality**

The California Jazz Foundation respects the privacy and dignity of the individual. Recipients' names are used only with their permission.

#### **Join Now**

As a charitable nonprofit organization, The California Jazz Foundation relies on membership and donations, not only from Jazz lovers but all those who value the arts!

#### California Jazz Foundation

A nonprofit 501(c)(3) organization, Federal Tax ID #65-1270361 5903 Noble Avenue, Van Nuys, CA 91411

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