Jazz Journalists Association Announces "Jazz Heroes"

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By Jim Eigo

The Jazz Journalists Association has announced its 2014 "Jazz Heroes," two dozen individuals who, according to a press release, are "activists, advocates, altruists, elders and abettors of jazz." The honorees were chosen by the JJA in collaboration with grass roots supporters in 21 U.S. cities and Toronto. The announcement coincides with the launch of JazzApril, a media campaign celebrating local scenes during Jazz Appreciation Month, which culminates in International Jazz Day.

According to the press release, "The 2014 Jazz Heroes include music educators, festival producers, venue operators and presenters, broadcasters and journalists, a municipal cultural administrator, an instrument repair angel, and musicians who have been mentors to up n' coming musicians as well as audiences."

Jim Wilke and Jazz Journalists Association's Howard Mandel at JJA awards in NYC

By Jim Eigo


Cephas Bowles, WBGGO President and CEO

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Alphabetically, the heroes are:

Harold Batiste, New Orleans-based saxophonist, composer-arranger and producer; John Bluth, co-producer of the Wall Street Jazz Festival, Kingston NY Cephas Bowles, president and CEO of WBGGO, Newark NJ Raymond Brown, trumpeter and head of jazz studies at Cabrillo College near Santa Cruz, CA Faye Carol, vocalist and educator in the SF Bay Area Bill Foster, founder of Detroit's Jazz Network Foundation Bobby Hill, writer and broadcaster at WPFW, Washington DC Joseph Jennings, saxophonist and retired educator in Atlanta Jennifer Johnson Washington, director of programming for Chicago's Department of Cultural Affairs and Special Events Dr. John Larkin, cross-genre trumpeter and educator in Maryland Emilio Lynch, the Sex Doctor of Boston Thera Memory, composer, trumpeter and educator in Portland OR Vita West Muir, founder and producer of the Litchfield Jazz Festival and Jazz Camp Thomas Pierce, activist for the Schenectady-based Swingtime Jazz Society and A Place for Jazz Jon Poses, founder and executive director of the "We Always Swing's" Jazz Series in Columbia MO Geraldine "Gerry" Seay, owner/operator of B Sharps Jazz Café, Tallahassee Meghan Stabile, founder of Revive Music Group Peggy Stern, pianist and co-founder/producer of the Wall Street Jazz Festival, Kingston NY Janis Stockhouse, trumpeter and editor at the early days at Bloomingdale High School North, Bloomingdale IN Bill Stroik, founder of Manchester Craftsmen's Guild Patrick Taylor, founder and producer of the Toronto Jazz Festival Larry Reni Thomas, journalist and radio broadcaster working with Art of the Coool, Durham NC Wayne Thompson, writer and festival board member, Portland OR Jim Wilke, Jazz After Hours radio show producer, Seattle

Sponsors of the JJA's JazzApril. Jazz Heroes and Jazz Awards include the Jazz Cruise, North Coast Brewing Company, the Ella Fitzgerald Foundation, Berklee College of Music, Century Media Partners LLC, the Jazz Institute of Chicago, JazzBoston and the Manchester Craftsmen's Guild.

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