

Jazz Beyond Borders

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Cafe Mezzanotte Presents a New Jazz Series in Severna Park

One of Anne Arundel County's most popular eating spots is adding a jazz series to its list of dining pleasures. Known for its Mediterranean cuisine and appealing atmosphere, Cafe Mezzanotte will bring monthly world music and jazz concerts to patrons. The "Sunday Jazz at the Mezz" series will feature top shelf artists, including many international names with impressive discographies. The suppertime concerts will be held from 5:00 p.m. until 7:00 p.m. from January through June. Doors open at 4:30 p.m.

On January 19 two local residents headline the bill. Pianist Robert Redd has toured far and wide with great names in jazz such as Ethel Ennis, Keter Betts and Charlie Byrd. Many jazz lovers believe vocalist Theresa Sise is a star in the making. She steps into the spotlight with entertaining and inspiring jazz commemorating the life of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and will share some of his favorite tunes. Joining her is the Sweet Tea Band bassist Michael Graham with drummer Nick Costa. Sise's recent show at 49 West in Annapolis was a sellout, so jazz fans should get their tickets now!

In February, world music and jazz star Lynn Veronneau brings her award-winning international group to Severna Park. It will be a rare treat for local residents to hear the French Canadian singer, her English husband, Ken Avis, and their popular global group. Veronneau has toured Europe and North America and graced the stages of The Kennedy Center, Strathmore and Blues Alley in Washington, D.C. With three high charting albums to their credit, they celebrate a ten-year anniversary in 2020.

March 15 brings in Hot Club of Baltimore featuring Alexis Tantau in an album release concert. Their music rooted in the gypsy jazz of the legendary Django Reinhardt. In the U.S. and abroad, bandleader Michael Joseph Harris is a leading figure in the ever-popular genre and artistic director of Charm City Django Jazz Fest. Held February 21-22 this year at Creative Alliance in Baltimore, the event sells out year after year.

On Sunday, April 19 Renée Georges brings a high quotient of glamor and vocal know-how to the stage. Since touring with MC Hammer and Ray Charles, Georges has emerged as a headliner under her own name. Expect superb arrangements merging jazz, blues, and pop music from this far touring artist.

Award Winning West Coast Latin Jazz singer/songwriter Debora Galán returns to the East Coast with amazing vocals and songs reflecting her jazz sensibilities and Spanish/Cuban heritage. Featuring poignant lyrics, refreshing melodies and compelling rhythms. Galán will sing in English, Spanish and Portuguese. She'll lead her band at Cafe Mezzanotte on Sunday, May 17.

The final concert of this season of "Sunday Jazz at the Mezz" takes place on June 14 when high-charting jazz saxophonist Kenney Polson entertains the Cafe Mezzanotte audience. Based in the Pacific Northwest, Polson has lived and performed in over 100 countries. Seamlessly blending R&B and smooth jazz he'll share tunes from his 2019 album *For Lovers Only* and preview songs from his upcoming release.

"Sunday Jazz at the Mezz" is presented by Cafe Mezzanotte and Jazz Beyond Borders, an organization dedicated to furthering cultural diversity and artistic excellence by presenting concerts, workshops and panel discussions. The venue is located at 760 Ritchie Highway (Route 2), Severna Park, MD 21146. Most concerts take place on the third Sunday of the month. Concert admission is \$20. Food and beverages are purchased separately. Call 410-647-1100 or visit <http://www.cafemezzanotte.com> and <http://www.jazzbeyondborders.com> for more information. Order tickets from: <http://www.instantseats.com>.

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