

Digital Program
Jazz in the Gardens | An Evening of Afro-Caribbean Jazz

Thursday, September 18, 2025, 6:30 p.m.



Donna Limerick, executive producer
Marshall Keys, music director, saxophone
Erika Reign, vocals
Steve Arnold, bass

Maureen Monteiro, assistant producer
Domenic Lewis, steelpan
Connor Holdridge, guitar
Jeremy Ceasar, drums

Program

Jazz Benjamin – Roger Gittens

Tobago – Jonas Rathsmann

Baiao Para Elizeu – Pedro Martins / Michael Pipoquinha

No Money No Love – David Westside

Mack the Knife – Kurt Weill / Bertolt Brecht

Strasbourg St. Denis – Roy Hargrove

Just The Two of Us - Bill Withers, Ralph MacDonald and William Salter

Sugar Bum Bum - Lord Kitchener

About the Artists



Marshall Keys plays the saxophone with a sense of grace and emotion that is wholly without cliché. He is a versatile musician with an expansive range, known for having a solid, soulful tone and for improvisations that begin simply before developing into elaborate, smartly constructed melodies. Keys received a National Endowment for the Arts grant and was commissioned by the Smithsonian to perform the music of Wayne Shorter. He was guest performer and lecturer at the Romare Bearden Exhibit at the National Gallery of Art. He has toured Africa and Central and South America for the State Department as a Jazz Ambassador and has played jazz festivals in the US, Germany, Ireland, Holland, Mexico, Panama, and Indonesia. Keys's recent endeavors include playing in the Washington National Cathedral Band and

collaborating with saxophonist Paul Carr in the Carr/Keys project. He has worked with many of the world's fine musicians including but finds the vibrant jazz community in Washington DC to be a continuing source of inspiration and motivation.

Domenic Lewis's introduction to steelpan came at age 13 during secondary school in his native Barbados, where he fell in love with the instrument. It was during this time that his playing spanned a range of musical genres from classical, to jazz, to gospel, to pop. Since then, he has performed all over the United States and the West Indies, including with the Smithsonian Jazz Masterworks Orchestra.

Domenic has had the privilege of being one of the first pan majors at George Mason University, under the tutelage of Prof. Victor Provost. Domenic is specializing in Jazz Studies, in addition to pre-medicine, and is entering the final year of his bachelor's program. His studies have allowed him to perform with the nationally renowned Mason Jazz Ensemble. He has taught and arranged for Barbados' annual national Youth Pan Project workshop, and currently does the same for CAFE (the Cultural Academy For Excellence) in the United States. His aspirations include being a jazz performer, composer, educator and medical practitioner.



Erika Reign is a Neo-Soul Free-Style Singer & Songwriter hailing from Prince George's County, Maryland. Her sound is a mesh of genres, some being Rhythm & Blues, Classical & Soul. She is a graduate of New England Conservatory of Music where she received her BA in Classical Vocal Studies.

Connor Holdridge is a jazz guitarist, composer and improviser. As versatile as he is gifted, Connor easily maneuvers the various music scenes of D.C. and Baltimore, to include his involvement in eclectic jazz group Ultrafaux, jazz/Neo-soul band Attic Sessions and his work as a sideman for artists all around the area. No stranger to the stage, Connor has had the pleasure of performing around the nation with various notable acts, including shows at The Kennedy Center with Nataly Merezhuk, An Die Musik with Duved Dunayevsky, and Blues Alley with Stephane Wrembel. He has also toured and played extensively as a part of Ultrafaux led by guitarist Michael Joseph Harris, to include performances at the Midwest Gypsy Swing Fest, Charm City Django Jazz Fest and an opening show for the National Symphony Orchestra.



Stephen Arnold is a bassist and composer, based in Washington, DC. Originally hailing from Greenfield, Massachusetts, Arnold studied the upright bass with Herman Burney, Jr. at the George Washington University, where he majored in Music and English and was a member of the 2018 class of the Betty Carter Jazz Ahead program at the Kennedy Center. He plays both upright and electric bass with several of the region's top artists, including Fran Vielma, Sharón Clark, Todd Marcus, Sarah Marie Hughes, José André Montano, Elijah Jamal Balbed, Brandon Woody, Brian Settles, Nataly

Merezhuk, and Dana Hawkins. He is a member of acclaimed punk-jazz band ¡FIASCO! as well as the Fran Vielma Pan-American Jazz Orchestra and Quartet. Arnold has had the honor of performing at venues such as The Library of Congress, The DC Jazz Festival, The Mid-Atlantic Jazz Festival, Jazz a la Calle, The Smithsonian National Portrait Gallery, The Kennedy Center, Blues Alley, Constellation, and Keystone Korner Baltimore.

Jeremy Caesar's musical journey began with the steelpan in 1999 at the Cultural Academy for Excellence (CAFÉ). He honed his percussive skills at the prestigious Duke Ellington School of the Performing Arts and the Jim Henson School for Performing Arts at Northwestern High School, where he played in numerous ensembles, including percussion, wind, orchestra, jazz, and marching bands, as well as choir. During his high school years, he also performed with Leonard Jack and Fusion, and Panmasters Steel Orchestra (PMSO). Jeremy studied with Liam Teague at Northern Illinois University and continues to perform with PMSO and Eclipse International, a premier Soca band in the area, as one of the arrangers and the primary drummer.



Donna Limerick, an award-winning documentary producer for over 25 years produced news and entertainment programs for National Public Radio, WETA-FM, and others. She is President and Executive Producer of North Star Communications, a radio syndication company. She has partnered on projects with Ken Burns and Henry Louis Gates, Jr. Her television and radio production credits, include Quincy Jones, Nancy Wilson, Duke Ellington, Dizzy Gillespie, Wynton Marsalis, and other jazz masters.

Donna was the Concert Producer for "Evolution of the Blues," written by vocalist Jon Hendricks. It debuted at the Monterey Jazz Festival in 1996 and moved on to a worldwide tour featuring Jon Hendricks, Joe Williams, Diane Reeves, Abbey Lincoln, Kevin Mahogany, and trumpeter Roy Hargrove.

She is currently a lecturer/consultant with the Smithsonian's National Museum of African American History and Culture for a permanent exhibit about her mother Mae Reeves (1912-2016), a pioneer hat designer and entrepreneur. Her clients included Ella Fitzgerald, Lena Horne, and Marion Anderson. Donna Limerick has been the executive producer for Jazz in the Gardens at Hillwood since the series began in 2021.

Maureen Monteiro is the assistant producer for North Star Communications, Inc. This company syndicates radio programs to public radio stations nationwide, as well as produces concerts and lectures for the Mae Reeves Exhibit at the National Museum of African-American History and Culture.



All photos are courtesy of the artists.